

Strike Fighter Squadron Histories (VFA)

VFA-15 to VFA-305

VFA-15

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron SIXTY SEVEN (VA-67) on 1 August 1968.

Redesignated Attack Squadron FIFTEEN (VA-15) on 2 June 1969.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN (VFA-15) on 1 October 1986. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-67 designation, the second to be assigned the VA-15 designation and the first to be assigned the VFA-15 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron does not have a CNO approval date for the use of the lion and missile insignia. This



The squadron adopted the lion insignia used by the first VA-15. The designation in the scroll was changed to VFA-15 in 1986.

insignia was approved by the CNO for use by the first squadron to be assigned the VA-15 designation. When VA-67 was redesignated VA-15 on 2 June 1969, it adopted the insignia that had been used by the first VA-15, which had been disestablished on 1 June 1969. Colors for the lion insignia are: background with red upper half and blue-green lower half, the insignia and scroll are outlined in white; blue scroll with white lettering; white waves; white rocket with black markings and yellow streaks emanating from the tail; yellow lion with black markings.

Nickname: Valions, 1969-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

1 Aug 1968: The squadron began training under VA-174 in preparation for operating the A-7 Corsair II.

19 Oct 1973: The squadron provided maintenance personnel for Operation Nickle Grass, the transatlantic flight of A-4 Skyhawks to Israel using *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42) as an intermediate air field.

Oct–Nov 1973: The squadron, embarked in *Roosevelt*, operated in the vicinity of Crete in response to the Arab-Israeli war.

Jun–Jul 1976: Following the assassination of the American Ambassador to Lebanon on 13 June, *America* (CV 66), with VA-15 embarked, operated in the vicinity of Lebanon and flew support missions during the evacuation of non-combatants from that country.

May 1981: *Independence* (CV 62), with VA-15 embarked, transited the Suez Canal and maintained station in the eastern Mediterranean due to the crisis between Israel and Syria following Israeli raids against Syrian surface-to-air missile sites in Lebanon.

25 Oct–1 Nov 1983: In response to continued political strife and the need to protect and evacuate Americans from the island country of Grenada, VA-15 aircraft flew combat close air support and reconnaissance sorties in support of operation Urgent Fury, the landing of U.S. Marines and Army rangers on the island.

4 Dec 1983: In response to hostile fire against U.S. reconnaissance aircraft from Syrian positions in Lebanon, VA-15 aircraft participated in coordinated strikes against Syrian radar, communications and artillery positions overlooking the Multi-National Peacekeeping Forces. One of the squadron's A-7E Corsair IIs, flown by the Air Wing Commander, Command Edward Andrews, was lost when it was hit by a Syrian surface-to-air missile. Commander Andrews ejected, was rescued and returned to *Independence*.

Dec 1985–Jun 1986: The squadron returned from a six-month deployment to MCAS Iwakuni in the western Pacific. It was assigned to MAG-12, 1st Marine Air Wing during the deployment. This deployment was designed to test the enhanced interoperability between Marine and Naval Air Forces, with emphasis on close air support for Marine ground operations and the sharing of other techniques used by both communities.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Cecil Field	01 Aug 1968

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Lawrence C. Chambers	06 Nov 1968
CDR Robert B. Bristol	12 Feb 1970
CDR Donald D. Brown	30 Mar 1971
CDR Forrest A. Lees, Jr.	30 Mar 1972
CDR Richard C. McClary	21 Mar 1973
CDR Harry P. Kober, Jr.	24 May 1974
CDR Gordon E. Evans	30 Jul 1975
CDR Kelvin W. Huehn	02 Oct 1976
CDR Robert S. Smith	17 Dec 1977
CDR John J. Mazach	19 Apr 1979

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR John J. Coonan	26 Jun 1980
CDR Michael B. Nordeen	24 Sep 1981
CDR Byron L. Duff	01 Nov 1982
CDR Leslie G. Kappel	01 Jun 1984
CDR Philip Craig Landon	08 Oct 1985
CDR John W. Curtin	08 Jan 1987
CDR Milton W. Smith	13 May 1988
CDR Brian M. Calhoun	29 Nov 1989

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-7B	10 Mar 1969
A-7E	Aug 1975
F/A-18A	06 Jan 1987



A squadron A-7E Corsair II taking off from the deck of Independence (CV 62) in 1982.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
02 Jan 1970	27 Jul 1970	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
29 Jan 1971	23 Jul 1971	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
15 Feb 1972	08 Dec 1972	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
14 Sep 1973	17 Mar 1974	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
03 Jan 1975	16 Jul 1975	CVW-6	CV 42	A-7B	Med
15 Apr 1976	25 Oct 1976	CVW-6	CV 66	A-7E	Med
10 Jun 1977	19 Jul 1977	CVW-6	CV 66	A-7E	SoLant
29 Sep 1977	25 Apr 1978	CVW-6	CV 66	A-7E	Med

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
28 Jun 1979	14 Dec 1979	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Med
19 Nov 1980	10 Jun 1981	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	SoLant/IO/Med
07 Jun 1982	22 Dec 1982	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Med
18 Oct 1983	11 Apr 1984	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Carib/Med/NorLant
16 Oct 1984	19 Feb 1985	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Med/IO
01 Dec 1985	13 Jun 1986	MAG-12	*	A-7E	WestPac
25 Aug 1988	11 Oct 1988	CVW-8	CVN 71	F/A-18A	NorLant
30 Dec 1988	30 Jun 1989	CVW-8	CVN 71	F/A-18A	Med
28 Dec 1990	28 Jun 1991	CVW-8	CVN 71	F/A-18A	Med/Red Sea/ Persian Gulf

* The squadron forward deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, to provide close air support for Marine forces in WestPac. While deployed to WestPac the squadron also operated at NAF Kadena, Okinawa; NAS Cubi Point, Philippines and stations in Korea.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMFAIRJACKSON- VILLE		01 Aug 1968
CVW-6	AE	11 Mar 1969
COMLATWING 1		Apr 1985
MAG-12, 1st MAW*	AC*	Dec 1985
COMLATWING 1		Jun 1986
CVW-8	AJ	01 Sep 1987

* VA-15 was assigned to MAG-12, 1st Marine Air Wing during its shore-based deployment to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. While deployed with MAG-12 the squadron used the tail code AC on its aircraft.

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
	01 Jul 1976 31 Dec 1980
	01 Jan 1987 31 Dec 1988
NAVE	01 Oct 1977 30 Sep 1978
	01 Oct 1979 30 Sep 1980
	01 Jan 1983 31 Dec 1983
	01 Jan 1988 31 Dec 1988
NEM	07 Dec 1980 11 May 1981
	20 Aug 1982 05 Sep 1982
	01 Oct 1982 06 Dec 1982
AFEM	24 Oct 1983 02 Nov 1983
	16 Nov 1983 22 Dec 1983
	28 Dec 1983 03 Jan 1984
	15 Jan 1984 03 Feb 1984
	09 Feb 1984 02 Mar 1984
HSM	20 Jun 1976 27 Jul 1976

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
MUC	09 Mar 1972 01 Dec 1972



A flight of squadron F/A-18A Hornets in 1990.

VFA-22

Lineage

Established as Fighting Squadron SIXTY THREE (VF-63) on 27 July 1948.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SIXTY THREE (VA-63) in March 1956.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWENTY TWO (VA-22) on 1 July 1959.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron TWENTY TWO (VFA-22) on 4 May 1990. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-22, VA-63 and VFA-22 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 9 May 1949. The background is a heraldic bar sinister shield and with cumulus clouds. Overlaying the background is a gamecock ready to strike.



This insignia has been used by the squadron since its CNO approval in 1949. The only modification was the addition of the scroll and the VA-22 designation, which changed to VFA-22 in 1990.

Colors for the insignia are as follows: the gamecock and bar on the shield are red with black outlines; the beak and feet of the gamecock are gold and the background of the shield and clouds are white outlined in black. The squadron continued to use the insignia following its redesignations to VA-63, VA-22 and then VFA-22. VA-22

added a scroll at the bottom of the shield. The scroll has a white background outlined in black with red lettering. On 14 September 1990, CNO approved a modification to the insignia, changing the designation in the scroll to VFA-22.

Nickname: Fighting Redcocks, 1949-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

16 Sep 1950: The squadron participated in its first combat action, providing close air support for the amphibious landings at Inchon, Korea.

23 Jun 1952: VF-63, along with other units from *Boxer* (CV 21), *Princeton* (CV 37), *Philippine Sea* (CV 47), *Bon Homme Richard* (CV 31), U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps squadrons, conducted a major offensive against hydro-electric targets in North Korea.

6 Aug 1952: While launching combat sorties a severe fire broke out on the hangar deck of *Boxer* following the explosion of an aircraft gasoline tank. Eight people were killed and one was missing, with several seriously injured. VF-63 did not suffer any casualties, however, three of the squadron's personnel were awarded Bronze Stars for their heroic and courageous action during the fire.

Feb 1955: The squadron, while deployed aboard *Essex* (CVA 9), provided air support during the evacuation of Chinese Nationalist from the Tachen Islands after the bombardment of the islands by the People's Republic of China.

9 May 1958: The squadron became the first fleet unit to receive the FJ-4B Buddy Tanker package and successfully demonstrated its refueling capability.

Mar-Apr 1961: The squadron, while deployed aboard *Midway* (CVA 41), operated in the South China Sea due to the crisis in Laos.

6 Mar 1963: The squadron formed Detachment Romeo consisting of four A-4B Skyhawks, six pilots



Squadron personnel on the deck of Valley Forge (CV 45) in February 1951. A squadron F4U-4 Corsair is in the background.

and forty-eight enlisted personnel. Its mission was to deploy aboard ASW carriers and provide them with a limited amount of air defense.

19 Apr–3 Dec 1963: VA-22 Detachment Romeo was deployed to the western Pacific aboard *Kearsarge* (CVS 33) and part of CVSG-53. During the deployment it participated in the recovery of space capsule Faith 7 and astronaut Major L. Gordon Cooper, USAF, following his 22 successful orbits around the earth.

18 Dec 1963: VA-22 Detachment Romeo was disestablished.

Apr 1965: The squadron participated in its first combat operations since the Korean War and on 20 April suffered its first aircraft loss. Lieutenant Phillip N. Butler's A-4C was hit by enemy antiaircraft fire while on a night armed reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam. He successfully ejected and became a prisoner of war.

3 Jun 1965: Lieutenant Raymond P. Ilg (later Vice Admiral) was shot down in his A-4C while on an armed road reconnaissance mission over northern Laos. He successfully ejected and, following three days of evading capture deep inside enemy territory, was rescued by a helicopter.

22 Nov 1966: Commander Henry D. Arnold, commanding officer of VA-22, received the Silver Star Medal for his actions during a strike against a Haiphong surface-to-air missile support facility.

26 Jan 1968: The *Ranger* (CVA 62), with VA-22 aboard, while operating on Yankee Station was ordered to the Sea of Japan following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by the North Koreans on 23 January 1968. *Ranger* and VA-22 operated in the area until relieved on 5 March 1968.

9 May 1972: Operation Pocket Money, the mining of Haiphong harbor, was launched. Aircraft from VA-22, as well as the other attack squadrons deployed aboard *Coral Sea* (CVA 43), planned and executed the mining.

Apr–Jul 1973: The squadron flew missions in sup-

port of Operation End Sweep, the clearing of mines from North Vietnam's coastal waters.

29 Apr 1975: VA-22's aircraft provided air cover for Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of American citizens from Saigon. The last American helicopter to lift off the roof of the United States Embassy was escorted by an A-7E from the squadron.

15 May 1975: VA-22 aircraft, along with other elements from CVW-15 aboard *Coral Sea*, launched air strikes against the Cambodian mainland after the capture of the SS *Mayaguez* by Cambodian gunboats on 12 May. Squadron aircraft flew ten combat sorties and struck targets at Ream Airfield.

27 Oct 1979: Following the assassination of Park Chung Hee, President of the Republic of Korea, *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) was ordered to operate off the coast of Korea.

21 Nov 1979: *Kitty Hawk*, along with VA-22 and the rest of CVW-15, departed Subic Bay, Philippines, enroute to the Arabian Sea as a response to the 4 November Iranian seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran and the taking of over 60 American hostages.

6 Dec 1985: A squadron aircraft fired an AGM-88 Harm missile while operating out of NWC China Lake. This was the first AGM-88 Harm missile fired by a West Coast Fleet squadron.

Apr–Jul 1986: In late April *Enterprise* (CVN 65), with VA-22 onboard, transited the Suez Canal from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea to augment carrier forces there. Earlier in the month American strikes were flown against Libyan military targets as a response to Libya's continuing support of terrorist activity.

18 Apr 1988: VA-22 participated in retaliatory strikes against Iranian oil platforms, gunboats and other naval ships after *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58) struck an Iranian mine on 14 April in international waters.

Dec 1989: The squadron participated in Operation Classic Resolve, providing support for the Philippine government during a coup d'etat attempt.



A formation of squadron F4U-4 Corsairs, May 1952 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).



A squadron A-7E Corsair II at NAS Lemoore, California, in 1975.



A squadron A-7E Corsair II in an unusual paint scheme, 1989.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Norfolk	27 Jul 1948
NAAS Oceana	20 Mar 1949
NAS Alameda	09 Aug 1950
NALF Santa Rosa	12 Jul 1951
NAS Alameda	25 Sep 1952
NAS Lemoore	28 Sep 1961



A squadron F9F-5 Panther gets a wave-off from the Landing Signal Officer aboard Yorktown (CVA 10) during her cruise to WestPac, 1953–1954.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Malcolm W. Cagle	27 Jul 1948
LCDR Thomas J. Ball	13 Feb 1950
LT L. W. S. Cummins (acting)	17 Aug 1951
LCDR Ward S. Miller	20 Aug 1951
LCDR Elmon A. Miller, Jr.	31 Oct 1952
CDR Robert H. Benson	Apr 1953
CDR Howard B. Eddy	Jul 1955
LCDR William C. Chapman	07 Jun 1957
CDR John H. Lobdell	20 Mar 1959
CDR Jack D. Kendall	31 Mar 1960
CDR W. T. Laws	10 Oct 1961
CDR E. W. Abbott	29 Oct 1962
CDR R. S. Smith	12 Sep 1963
CDR C. E. Dechow	02 Oct 1964
CDR E. H. Schorz (acting)	06 Oct 1964
CDR D. M. Wyand	20 Oct 1964
CDR E. H. Schorz	1965
CDR Henry D. Arnold	20 Oct 1966
CDR Jack K. Ashmore	07 Oct 1967
CDR Richard T. Gaskill	18 Oct 1968
CDR Henry C. Holt IV	16 Oct 1969
CDR James C. Thompson	22 Oct 1970
CDR Robert G. Ehrman	1971
CDR Leonard E. Giuliani	31 Aug 1972
CDR Gary A. Scoffield	28 Jul 1973
CDR John F. Calvert	08 Nov 1974
CDR Alan M. Dundon	27 Feb 1976
CDR Lee B. Cargill	22 Apr 1977
CDR John D. Grice	06 Jul 1978
CDR Jerry D. Palmer	25 Sep 1979
CDR John E. Vomastic	09 May 1981
CDR Russell C. York	Feb 1983
CDR Raymond A. Kellett	26 Jul 1984
CDR Richard J. Burns	01 Feb 1986
CDR William H. Roberson III	31 Jul 1987
CDR Dale M. Doorly	20 Jan 1989
CDR G. Robert Darwin	09 Aug 1990

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F8F-2	Jul 1948
F4U-4	Jan 1950
F9F-2*	14 Sep 1951
F9F-5*	Dec 1952
F9F-6	Apr 1954
F9F-8	Aug 1955
FJ-4B	30 Jul 1957
A4D-2/A-4B†	24 May 1960
A4D-2N/A-4C†	06 Oct 1961
A-4F	Jun 1968
TA-4F‡	Jun 1968
A-7E	04 Feb 1971
F/A-18C	06 Jul 1990

* The squadron was scheduled to transition to the F9F-2 aircraft and received eight of the aircraft in September 1951, however, due to the severe lag in production of the aircraft and lack of critical spare parts, the squadron returned to flying the F4U-4 Corsair in the latter part of September 1951. It continued to fly the F4U-4 until November 1952 when it transitioned to jets. Initially it received F9F-2 aircraft in November 1952 and then switched to F9F-5 Panthers.

† In 1962 the Navy's aircraft designation system was changed and A4D-2 was redesignated A-4B and A4D-2N became A-4C.

‡ The TA-4Fs were tandem seat Skyhawks used for instrument training.



A squadron FJ-4B Fury, circa 1958 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).



A formation of squadron F9F-8 Cougars, 1957 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection)

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
27 Oct 1949	22 Nov 1949	CVG-6	CVB 42	F8F-2	NorLant
24 Aug 1950	11 Nov 1950	CVG-2	CV 21	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
06 Dec 1950	*	CVG-2	CV 45	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
*	09 Jun 1951	CVG-2	CV 47	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
07 Feb 1952	25 Sep 1952	CVG-2	CV 21	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
03 Aug 1953	03 Mar 1954	CVG-2	CVA 10	F9F-5	WestPac
03 Nov 1954	21 Jun 1955	CVG-2	CVA 9	F9F-6	WestPac
13 Nov 1956	20 May 1957	CVG-2	CVA 38	F9F-8	WestPac
16 Aug 1958	12 Mar 1959	CVG-2	CVA 41	FJ-4B	WestPac
15 Aug 1959	25 Mar 1960	CVG-2	CVA 41	FJ-4B	WestPac
16 Feb 1961	28 Sep 1961	CVG-2	CVA 41	A4D-2	WestPac
06 Apr 1962	20 Oct 1962	CVG-2	CVA 41	A4D-2N	WestPac
08 Nov 1963	26 May 1964	CVW-2	CVA 41	A-4C	WestPac
06 Mar 1965	23 Nov 1965	CVW-2	CVA 41	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
29 Jul 1966	23 Feb 1967	CVW-2	CVA 43	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
04 Nov 1967	25 May 1968	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
18 Mar 1969	29 Oct 1969	CVW-5	CVA 31	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
02 Apr 1970	12 Nov 1970	CVW-5	CVA 31	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
12 Nov 1971	17 Jul 1972	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
09 Mar 1973	08 Nov 1973	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7E	WestPac
05 Dec 1974	02 Jul 1975	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7E	WestPac
15 Feb 1977	05 Oct 1977	CVW-15	CV 43	A-7E	WestPac
30 May 1979	25 Feb 1980	CVW-15	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
01 Apr 1981	23 Nov 1981	CVW-15	CV-63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
01 Sep 1982	28 Apr 1983	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	NorPac/WestPac/IO
30 May 1984	20 Dec 1984	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO/NorPac
12 Jan 1986	13 Aug 1986	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO/ Med/SoLant
25 Oct 1987	24 Nov 1987	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	NorPac
05 Jan 1988	03 Jul 1988	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO/NorPac
17 Sep 1989	16 Mar 1990	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	World Cruise

* On 29 March 1951 VF-63 and CVG-2 transferred from *Valley Forge* (CV 45) to *Philippine Sea* (CV 47) while in port Yokosuka, Japan.

Air Wing Assignment

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-6	C	27 Jul 1948
CVG-2/CVW-2†	M/NE*	31 Jul 1950
CVW-19	NM	01 Oct 1968
CVW-5	NF	01 Nov 1968
COMFAIRLEMOORE		08 Jan 1971
CVW-15	NL	02 Jun 1971
CVW-11	NH	15 Jan 1982

* CVG-2's tail code was changed from M to NE in 1957. The effective date was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† Carrier Air Groups were redesignated Carrier Air Wings and CVG-2 became CVW-2 on 20 December 1963.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Inclusive Dates</i>	<i>Covering Unit Award</i>
Nov 1962	Feb 1964
01 Jan 1979	30 Jun 1980
01 Jul 1980	31 Dec 1981
06 Sep 1958	10 Sep 1958
12 Sep 1958	29 Sep 1958
12 Oct 1958	30 Oct 1958
11 Nov 1958	15 Nov 1958
30 Nov 1958	12 Dec 1958
24 Mar 1961	25 Mar 1961
28 Mar 1961	07 Apr 1961
09 Apr 1965	11 May 1965
20 May 1965	28 Jun 1965



A composite photograph of the different types of aircraft flown by the squadron between 1948 and 1965.



A squadron A-4C Skyhawk preparing for a launch from Midway (CVA 41) in June 1963.

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	29 Jun 1969	
	07 Jul 1969	13 Jul 1969
	24 Jul 1969	
	03 Sep 1969	
	13 Sep 1969	14 Sep 1969
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	15 May 1975	
	Mar 1988	
	17 Jan 1990	31 Jan 1990
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	17 May 1981	
	02 Oct 1981	
	23 Oct 1982	
MUC	03 Dec 1967	09 May 1968
	15 Feb 1988	21 May 1988
NEM	25 Nov 1979	28 Jan 1980
	25 May 1981	30 Sep 1981
	30 Apr 1986	27 Jun 1986
NUC	Apr 1951	31 May 1951
	16 Apr 1965	04 Nov 1965
	12 Aug 1966	01 Feb 1967
	18 Apr 1969	08 Oct 1969
	02 May 1970	30 Oct 1970
	15 Dec 1971	01 Jul 1972
	22 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	15 May 1975	
	01 May 1979	23 Nov 1981
RVNGC	05 Oct 1965	
	09 Oct 1965	
	30 Mar 1972	01 Jul 1972
VNSM	22 Jul 1965	26 Aug 1965
	11 Sep 1965	09 Oct 1965
	18 Oct 1965	04 Nov 1965
	12 Sep 1966	19 Oct 1966
	30 Oct 1966	04 Dec 1966
	26 Dec 1966	01 Feb 1967
	03 Dec 1967	29 Dec 1967
	06 Jan 1968	28 Jan 1968
	18 Mar 1968	12 Apr 1968
	21 Apr 1968	09 May 1968
	17 Apr 1969	19 May 1969
	04 Jun 1969	26 Jun 1969
	31 Jul 1969	01 Sep 1969
	23 Sep 1969	09 Oct 1969
	02 May 1970	26 May 1970
	01 Jun 1970	14 Jun 1970
	10 Jul 1970	29 Jul 1970
	17 Aug 1970	03 Sep 1970
	11 Sep 1970	12 Sep 1970
	26 Sep 1970	21 Oct 1970
	14 Dec 1971	

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	31 Dec 1971	17 Jan 1972
	26 Jan 1972	17 Feb 1972
	01 Apr 1972	11 May 1972
	01 Jun 1972	11 Jun 1972
	21 Jun 1972	30 Jun 1972
KPUC	15 Sep 1950	26 Oct 1950
	Dec 1950	20 Mar 1951

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	Apr 1951	31 May 1951
	10 Mar 1952	9 Sep 1952
KSM	14 Sep 1950	26 Oct 1950
	16 Dec 1950	30 Mar 1951
	15 Apr 1951	2 Jun 1951
	10 Mar 1952	9 Sep 1952
UNSM	14 Sep 1950	26 Oct 1950
	10 Mar 1952	09 Sep 1952



A squadron F/A-18C Hornet in flight, 1990.

VFA-25

Lineage

Established as Torpedo Squadron SEVENTEEN (VT-17) on 1 January 1943.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SIX B (VA-6B) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron SIXTY FIVE (VA-65) on 27 July 1948.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWENTY FIVE (VA-25) on 1 July 1959.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron TWENTY FIVE (VFA-25) on 1 July 1983. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-25 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 28 September 1944. Colors for the four leaf clover, horseshoe and flying torpedo insignia were: a blue background with white shading; green four-leaf clover with black markings; white horseshoe with black markings; the wings and nose of the torpedo were yellow with black markings and the remaining part of the torpedo was white with black markings.



The squadron's first insignia was indicative of its mission as a torpedo squadron.

The clenched fist and lightning bolt insignia was approved by CNO on 9 June 1949. Colors for the insignia are: a gold background with a black border; black fist with gold markings and a red lightning bolt. On 24 July 1959, CNO approved a modification to the insignia. The modified insignia added a scroll with the designation VA-25. The scroll was yellow with black markings and lettering.

On 24 January 1974 CNO approved another modification to the insignia, adding three black stars. When the squadron was designated VFA-25 it continued to use the fist and lightning bolt insignia but dropped the three stars.

Nickname: Fist of the Fleet, 1949-present.



The clenched fist and lightning bolt became the squadron's second insignia and has been in use, with some modifications, since 1949.



This modification to the insignia was approved by CNO on 24 January 1974.



This is the current insignia used by the squadron.

Chronology of Significant Events

10 Sep–2 Oct 1943: The squadron was embarked in *Bunker Hill* (CV 17), enroute from Norfolk to Pearl Harbor via the Panama Canal and San Diego.

11 Nov 1943: The squadron flew its first combat sorties, striking targets in Rabaul.

Nov 1943–Feb 1944: The squadron flew numerous combat missions, striking targets in Kavieng, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Truk and Tinian.

2 Feb 1944: During operations over Eniwetok, the squadron's commanding officer, Lieutenant Commander F. M. Whitaker, was lost in a midair collision.

Feb 1945: The squadron flew numerous combat missions against targets in Japan and the Bonin Islands and provided ground support for the invasion of Iwo Jima.

19 Mar 1945: For their actions against the Japanese Fleet in the Kure Bay area of the Inland Sea, the following squadron personnel were awarded the Navy Cross: Lieutenant Commander W. M. Romberger; Lieutenant H. E. Clark; Lieutenant (jg)s T. J. Coghlan, H. W. Foote, H. C. Johnson, A. C. Traxler and Ensign J. Behl. Lieutenant J. A. Tew was awarded the Silver Star for his actions during this attack.

Mar 1945: Squadron aircraft struck Japanese ships in the East China Sea, Inland Sea and around the Ryukyu Islands and land based targets in and around Okinawa.

7 Apr 1945: VT-17, along with other units from the task force, attacked a Japanese naval force composed of the superbattleship *Yamato* and her escorts. Squadron aircraft scored several torpedo hits on the *Yamato* and sunk one of her destroyer escorts. For their actions in this battle the following squadron personnel were awarded the Navy Cross: Lieutenants T. C. Durkin and S. G. Sullivan; Lieutenant (jg) J. F. Monaghan and Ensign W. F. Nickel. Lieutenant H. E. Clark, Lieutenant (jg) T. J. Coghlan and Ensign R. S. Hanlon were awarded the Silver Star for their actions.

Apr 1945: Combat missions were flown against tar-

gets in and around Okinawa in preparation for the invasion of that island.

May-Jun 1945: VT-17 aircraft struck targets in and around Okinawa, Kyushu, Shikoku and ships in the East China Sea.

27 Oct-23 Nov 1949: VA-65, embarked in *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVB 42), operated in the Davis Straits area conducting cold weather exercises.

15 Sep 1950: Squadron aircraft participated in combat strikes against shore defenses in and around Inchon, Korea, just before the landings at Inchon.

1 Oct 1950: Squadron aircraft struck the North Korean capital of P'yongyang, hitting the airfield and scoring a direct hit on a large electrical power plant.

23 Jun 1952: Squadron aircraft participated in a coordinated four carrier strike on North Korean hydro-electric power plants. VA-65's Skyraiders hit the Suiho power plant on the Yalu River.

6 Aug 1952: Embarked in *Boxer*, the squadron was preparing for routine combat operations when a fire broke out on the hangar deck. Squadron personnel assisted in removing armed ordnance from planes on the flight deck and helped fight the fire on the hangar deck. One casualty was suffered by the squadron as a result of the fire.

Feb 1955: While embarked in *Essex* (CVA 9) and operating in the Formosa Straits, the squadron provided air support during the evacuation of Nationalist Chinese forces from the Tachen Islands which had come under bombardment by the People's Republic of China.

25 Aug 1958: *Midway* (CVA 41), with VA-65 embarked, was ordered to discontinue its ORI and proceed to the vicinity of Taiwan following the shelling of the Quemoy Islands on 23 August by the Chinese Communists.

Mar 1961: The squadron, while embarked in *Midway*, operated in the South China Sea due to the crisis in Laos.

Apr 1965: The squadron engaged in its first combat operations in the Vietnam theater.

20 Jun 1965: Four of the squadron's Skyraiders engaged enemy fighters over North Vietnam resulting in the shoot down of a MiG-17. Lieutenant Clinton B. Johnson and Lieutenant (jg) Charles W. Hartman III were awarded Silver Stars for their actions in downing the MiG-17.

14 Sep 1966: While on a combat sortie near Vinh, North Vietnam, the squadron's commanding officer, Commander C. W. Stoddard, was shot down by a surface-to-air missile and lost at sea.

Jan 1968: Squadron aircraft provided close air support for U.S. Marines besieged at Khe Sanh, South Vietnam.

6 Apr 1968: The squadron returned to NAS Lemoore from a combat deployment to Vietnam, bringing to a close an era for the A-1 Skyraider. It was the last

attack squadron to deploy and operate the A-1. The A-1's last combat mission with VA-25 came to an end on 20 February when the aircraft touched down on the deck of *Coral Sea* (CVA 43).

Apr 1969: Following the shoot down of a Navy EC-121 aircraft by the North Koreans, *Ticonderoga* (CVA 14), with VA-25 embarked, was ordered to the Sea of Japan.

21 Nov 1970: Squadron aircraft flew Rescue Combat Air Patrol sorties while an Army-Air Force search and rescue team landed at the Son Tay POW compound, 20 miles west of Hanoi, in an attempt to free American POWs. Unfortunately the POW compound had already been evacuated by the North Vietnamese.

Dec 1972: The squadron participated in Linebacker II Operations, heavy air strikes against targets primarily around Hanoi and Haiphong.

15 Jan 1973: The squadron participated with several other squadrons in a large laser bombing attack against bridge targets in North Vietnam. This coordinated strike used the A-6's Pave Knife Laser Designation System to guide laser-guided bombs dropped by A-7 aircraft.

Jan-Feb 1973: Following the cease fire with North Vietnam on 27 January, the squadron concentrated its attention on strikes against lines-of-communication targets in Laos until an agreement was reached with that country.

Jul 1976: Following the Israeli raid on Entebbe and the threatened military operations against Kenya by Uganda, the *Ranger* (CV 61), with VA-25 embarked, was ordered to transit from the South China Sea to the western Indian Ocean and operate off the coast of Kenya.

21 Feb 1985: VFA-25 and 113, embarked in *Constellation* (CV 64), were the first to deploy with the F/A-18 Hornet. During the deployment the Hornets operated in the western Pacific and Indian Ocean.

Jul 1987: Due to the increased attacks on merchant and tanker shipping in the Persian Gulf during the Iran/Iraqi War, the United States began to escort reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers. During operation Earnest Will, VFA-25 provided air cover for reflagged tankers transiting the Straits of Hormuz.

Aug 1990: Due to the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq, *Independence* (CV 62), with VFA-25 embarked, was ordered to operate in the Gulf of Oman.

Aug-Nov 1990: VFA-25 flew sorties from *Independence* in support of Operation Desert Shield, the build-up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait. On 2 October *Independence* entered the Persian Gulf and operated in those waters for two days before returning to the Northern Arabian Sea and being relieved on station by *Midway* (CV 41).



A squadron TBF-1C prepares to take off from Bunker Hill (CV 17) during its combat cruise on the carrier from October 1943 to March 1944.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Norfolk	01 Jan 1943
NAS Kaneohe	03 Oct 1943*
NAS Alameda	10 Mar 1944†
NAS Hilo	12 Nov 1944*
NAB Agana	28 Dec 1944*
NAS Alameda	08 Jul 1945
NAAS Fallon	Sep 1945
NAS Brunswick	01 Feb 1946
NAS Norfolk	15 Aug 1946
NAAS Oceana	05 Mar 1949
NAS Alameda	15 Aug 1950
NALF Santa Rosa	11 Jul 1951
NAS Alameda	25 Sep 1952
NAS Moffett Field	28 Sep 1961
NAS Lemoore	07 Jan 1963

* Temporary shore assignment while the squadron conducted training in preparation for combat deployment.

† During the squadron's reforming and training cycle it operated from numerous other shore stations, including NAAS Monterey, NAAS Vernalis, and NAAS Arcata.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Frank M. Whitaker	01 Jan 1943
LT Gordon N. Owens	02 Feb 1944
LT Jack Martin (acting)	18 Apr 1944
LCDR William M. Romberger	02 May 1944
LT Arnold C. Traxler (acting)	18 Aug 1945
LCdr William N. Janes (acting)	21 Aug 1945
CDR Rubin H. Konig	11 Oct 1945
LCDR Glen B. Butler	31 Oct 1947
LCDR Michael J. Hanley	08 Dec 1948
CDR Richard W. Phillips	01 Feb 1950
CDR Gordon A. Sherwood	31 Aug 1951
LCDR Marvin R. Novak (acting)	22 Oct 1952

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Harry M. Thompson	28 Oct 1952
LCDR J. A. Rapp	12 Mar 1954
CDR John R. Bowen II	15 Jul 1955
CDR William C. Bates	22 May 1957
CDR Edward V. Izac, Jr.	15 May 1958
CDR John W. Fairbanks	03 Apr 1959
CDR Warren H. Ireland	08 Apr 1960
LCDR M. E. Mann (acting)	11 May 1960
CDR William S. Hertig	16 May 1960
CDR C. R. Bradford	03 Aug 1961
CDR John A. Overn	11 Aug 1962
CDR Herman W. Presson	25 Jun 1963
CDR Ralph F. Smith	29 May 1964
CDR Harry E. Ettinger	24 May 1965
CDR C. William Stoddard	13 Apr 1966
CDR James D. Burden	14 Sep 1966
CDR Clifford E. Church	01 Oct 1967
CDR Scott L. Smith	Mar 1968
CDR Fred J. Orrik	09 Jun 1969
CDR F. M. Humphreys	26 Jun 1970
CDR Juan H. Carcaba	26 May 1971
CDR Edwin A. Greathouse	19 May 1972
CDR Paul M. Moore	02 Jun 1973
CDR George R. Vezina	05 May 1974
CDR Peter W. Ogle	08 Jul 1975
CDR James B. Hamilton	29 Oct 1976
CDR Warner L. Butler	31 Jan 1978
CDR Donald J. Wright	26 Mar 1979
CDR John A. Lockard	29 Jul 1980
CDR Robert W. Leone	07 Oct 1981
CDR Steve L. Webb	25 Apr 1983
CDR C. J. Leslie	16 Nov 1984
CDR Jeorme L. Arbiter	Feb 1986
CDR Anthony V. Colantoni, Jr.	02 Sep 1987
CDR Daniel W. Gabriel	23 Nov 1988
CDR Gregory R. Peairs	31 May 1990

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
TBF-1	Jan 1943
TBF-1C	Oct 1943
TBM-1	May 1944
TBM-1C	Oct 1944
TBM-3	Feb 1945
TBM-3E	Sep 1945
SB2C-4E	Mar 1946
SB2C-5	Nov 1946
AD-1	23 Sep 1947
AD-1Q	Jul 1948
AD-4	02 Dec 1949
AD-3	14 Nov 1950
AD-2	05 Dec 1950
AD-4Q	05 Dec 1950

Aircraft Assignment—Continued

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
AD-1/2/3/4	1951*
AD-4NA	03 Dec 1952
AD-4B	23 Dec 1952
AD-5	Jul 1955
AD-6/A-1H†	Jul 1955
AD-7/A-1J†	Apr 1959
A-7B	Oct 1968
A-7E	Dec 1969
F/A-18A	11 Nov 1984
F/A-18C	Jun 1989

* Between July and December 1951 the squadron received and transferred numerous models of the AD Skyraider.

† The AD-6 and AD-7 designations were changed to A-1H and A-1J respectively in 1962.



Photo of squadron officers aboard Philippine Sea (CV 47) in 1951. A squadron AD-2 Skyraider is in the background.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
21 Oct 1943	04 Mar 1944	CVG-17	CV 17	TBF-1C	Pacific*
02 Feb 1945	08 Jul 1945	CVG-17	CV 12	TBM-1C/3	Pacific†
04 Jan 1949	05 Mar 1949	CVG-6	CVB 41	AD-1	Med
24 Aug 1950	11 Nov 1950	CVG-2	CV 21	AD-4	WestPac/Korea
06 Dec 1950	09 Jun 1951	CVG-2	‡	AD-2	WestPac/Korea
08 Feb 1952	26 Sep 1952	CVG-2	CV 21	AD-4	WestPac/Korea
03 Aug 1953	03 Mar 1954	CVG-2	CVA 10	AD-4B/NA	WestPac
03 Nov 1954	21 Jun 1955	CVG-2	CVA 9	AD-4/4B	WestPac
13 Nov 1956	22 May 1957	CVG-2	CVA 38	AD-6	WestPac
16 Aug 1958	12 Mar 1959	CVG-2	CVA 41	AD-6	WestPac
15 Aug 1959	25 Mar 1960	CVG-2	CVA 41	AD-7	WestPac
16 Feb 1961	28 Sep 1961	CVG-2	CVA 41	AD-7	WestPac
06 Apr 1962	20 Oct 1962	CVG-2	CVA 41	A-1H/J	WestPac
08 Nov 1963	26 May 1964	CVW-2	CVA 41	A-1H/J	WestPac
06 Mar 1965	23 Nov 1965	CVW-2	CVA 41	A-1H/J	WestPac/Vietnam
29 Jul 1966	23 Feb 1967	CVW-2	CVA 43	A-1H	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Jul 1967	06 Apr 1968	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-1H/J	WestPac/Vietnam
01 Feb 1969	18 Sep 1969	CVW-16	CVA 14	A-7B	WestPac/Vietnam
27 Oct 1970	17 Jun 1971	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
16 Nov 1972	23 Jun 1973	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
07 May 1974	18 Oct 1974	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7E	WestPac
30 Jan 1976	07 Sep 1976	CVW-2	CV 61	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 Feb 1979	22 Sep 1979	CVW-2	CV 61	A-7E	WestPac
10 Sep 1980	05 May 1981	CVW-2	CV 61	A-7E	WestPac/IO
07 Apr 1982	19 Oct 1982	CVW-2	CV 61	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 Feb 1985	24 Aug 1985	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
04 Sep 1986	20 Oct 1986	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A	NorPac
11 Apr 1987	13 Oct 1987	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
01 Dec 1988	01 Jun 1989	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
16 Sep 1989	19 Oct 1989	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A/C	NorPac
23 Jun 1990	20 Dec 1990	CVW-14	CV 62	F/A-18C	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf

* The combat deployment time frame covers the squadron's departure from Pearl Harbor aboard *Bunker Hill* (CV 17) and its return to Pearl Harbor on 4 March 1944. The squadron detached from *Bunker Hill* on 4 March and returned to the States on 10 March 1944.

† The combat deployment time frame covers the squadron's 2 February 1945 embarkation in *Hornet* (CV 12) at Ulithi atoll and its return to the States on 8 July 1945.

‡ VA-65 deployed to Korea embarked in *Valley Forge* (CV 45). On 29 March 1951 the squadron, along with the rest of CVG-2, transferred to *Philippine Sea* (CV 47) for continued operations in Korea. It returned to the States embarked in *Philippine Sea*.



Squadron A-1H Skyraiders on the deck of Coral Sea (CVA 43) in 1966 during their deployment to Vietnam.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-17/CVBG-17/ CVBG-5/CVG-6*	C†	01 Jan 1943
CVG-2/CVW-2§	M/NE‡	01 Aug 1950
CVW-15	NL	31 Mar 1967
COMFAIRALAMEDA		1968**
CVW-16	AH	1968
CVW-2	NE	1970***
CVW-14	NK	Jan 1984

* CVG-17 was established on 1 January 1943. It was redesignated CVBG-17 on 22 January 1946 and then became CVBG-5 on 15 November 1946. The CVGB-5 designation was changed to CVG-6 on 27 July 1948.

† The tail code was assigned to CVBG-5 on 12 December 1946.

‡ The tail code was changed from M to NE in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

§ CVG-2 was redesignated CVW-2 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

** During the squadron's transition to the A-7B Corsair II, its administrative superior was Commander Fleet Air Alameda. Once the transition was complete it was assigned to CVW-16.

*** CVW-2 returned from a WestPac deployment on 1 June 1970 and VA-25 was assigned to the air wing sometime in the summer or fall of 1970.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
PUC	11 Nov 1943	23 Feb 1944
	16 Feb 1945	10 Jun 1945
NAVE	01 Jul 1948	30 Jun 1949
	01 Jul 1949	30 Jun 1950
	01 Jul 1964	30 Jun 1965
	01 Jan 1986	31 Dec 1986
	01 Jan 1987	31 Dec 1987
	01 Jan 1990	31 Dec 1990
KSM	14 Sep 1950	26 Oct 1950
	16 Dec 1951	30 Mar 1951
	15 Apr 1951	02 Jun 1951
	10 Mar 1952	09 Sep 1952
HSM	25 May 1976	01 Jun 1976
	20 Mar 1981	
NUC	29 Mar 1951	31 May 1951
	16 Apr 1965	04 Nov 1965
	12 Aug 1966	01 Feb 1967
	13 Aug 1967	19 Feb 1968
	02 Aug 1990	
	01 Nov 1990	
AFEM	06 Sep 1958	10 Sep 1958
	12 Sep 1958	29 Sep 1958



A squadron A-7E Corsair II at NAS North Island, California, in 1975.

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	12 Oct 1958	30 Oct 1958
	11 Nov 1958	15 Nov 1958
	30 Nov 1958	12 Dec 1958
	24 Mar 1961	25 Mar 1961
	28 Mar 1961	07 Apr 1961
	09 Apr 1965	11 May 1965
	20 May 1965	28 Jun 1965
	20 Apr 1967	27 Apr 1967
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	20 Apr 1969	27 Apr 1969
	04 Aug 1969	
	16 Aug 1969	24 Aug 1969
	30 Aug 1969	
MUC	18 Feb 1969	07 Sep 1969
	18 Nov 1970	02 Jun 1971
	01 Jan 1988	31 Aug 1989
NEM	30 Oct 1980	12 Mar 1981
RVNGC	05 Oct 1965	
	09 Oct 1965	
	20 Nov 1966	21 Nov 1966
	29 Dec 1966	
	23 Nov 1967	
	02 Dec 1967	
	04 Dec 1967	
	20 Dec 1967	22 Dec 1967
	20 Jan 1968	
	23 Jan 1968	27 Jan 1968
	29 Jan 1968	19 Feb 1968
	04 Mar 1969	08 Mar 1969
	10 Mar 1969	
	12 Mar 1969	19 Mar 1969
	29 Mar 1969	31 Mar 1969

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	02 Apr 1969	03 Apr 1969
	06 Apr 1969	07 Apr 1969
	09 Apr 1969	15 Apr 1969
	10 May 1969	29 May 1969
	31 May 1969	03 Jun 1969
	28 Jun 1969	30 Jun 1969
VNSM	22 Jul 1965	26 Aug 1965
	10 Sep 1965	09 Oct 1965
	18 Oct 1965	04 Nov 1965
	12 Sep 1966	19 Oct 1966
	30 Oct 1966	
	01 Nov 1966	04 Dec 1966
	26 Dec 1966	01 Feb 1967
	26 Aug 1967	01 Oct 1967
	12 Oct 1967	28 Oct 1967
	04 Nov 1967	05 Nov 1967
	11 Nov 1967	08 Dec 1967
	16 Dec 1967	07 Jan 1968
	15 Jan 1968	21 Feb 1968
	03 Mar 1969	20 Mar 1969
	29 Mar 1969	16 Apr 1969
	09 May 1969	04 Jun 1969
	25 Jun 1969	01 Aug 1969
	18 Nov 1970	18 Dec 1970
	27 Dec 1970	13 Jan 1971
	02 Feb 1971	17 Mar 1971
	31 Mar 1971	18 Apr 1971
	25 Apr 1971	18 May 1971
	09 Dec 1972	03 Jan 1973
	14 Jan 1973	30 Jan 1973
	01 Feb 1973	06 Feb 1973
SASM	05 Aug 1990	04 Nov 1990



Two squadron F/A-18 Hornets on deck preparing to launch, circa 1988 or 1989.

VFA-27

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron TWENTY SEVEN (VA-27) on 1 September 1967.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron TWENTY SEVEN (VFA-27) on 24 January 1991. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-27 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by the CNO on 25 March 1968. Colors for the glove and mace



The squadron's Royal Maces insignia with the VA-27 (Attack Squadron 27) designation in the scroll.



The squadron maintained the same insignia design following its redesignation to VFA-27. The only change was the designation in the scroll.

insignia are as follows: sky blue background with a white cloud outlined in blue; light blue glove outlined in black and with USN in white; orange-red mace handle with a black mace, outlined in white; white scroll outlined in black with black lettering.

Nickname: Royal Maces, 1968-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

28 Jun 1968: The squadron flew its first combat sortie, striking targets in the panhandle region of North Vietnam.

4 Feb–7 Mar 1971: VA-27 embarked in *Enterprise* (CVAN 65), conducted training flights during the carrier's transit around Cape Horn to her new home port in California.

Dec 1971: With the outbreak of war between India and Pakistan over East Pakistan (later Bangladesh), *Enterprise* departed Yankee Station and made a quick transit to the Indian Ocean to provide support for the evacuation of foreign civilians from East Pakistan.

Oct 1972: Participated in Linebacker I operations, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam to interdict the flow of supplies in that country and into South Vietnam.

Dec 1972: Participated in Linebacker II operations, an intensified version of Linebacker I operations.

Feb 1975: *Enterprise*, with CVW-14, provided disas-

ter support for the island country of Mauritius following a tropical storm.

Apr 1975: Participated in operation Frequent Wind and provided air support for helicopters evacuating personnel from Saigon as it fell to the communists.

Feb 1977: During the crisis in Uganda and threats against Americans in that country, *Enterprise* operated off the coast of Kenya for possible support in the evacuation of Americans.

Dec 1979: *Coral Sea* (CV 43) operated off the coast of South Korea following the assassination of South Korea's President Park Chung-Hee in late October.

Apr 1980: The squadron participated in the Iranian hostage rescue attempt by providing air cover for the forces directly involved in the rescue operation.

May 1980: Following civil unrest in South Korea, *Coral Sea* operated off the coast of that country.

Aug 1983: Due to the unsettled conditions in Central America, *Coral Sea* (CV 43) operated off the coast of Nicaragua.

Aug 1986: The squadron participated in the first carrier tactical flight operations in the Bering Sea since the end of World War II.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Lemoore	01 Sep 1967

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR George T. Pappas	01 Sep 1967
CDR Donald L. Felt	28 Feb 1969
CDR Thomas W. Durant	04 Feb 1970
CDR Leroy B. Keeley	22 Jan 1971
CDR Jerome L. Johnson	22 Dec 1971
CDR Leon A. Edney	15 Dec 1972
CDR Meredith W. Patrick	09 Jan 1974
CDR James A. Kenney	07 Mar 1975
CDR Dale A. Iverson	28 May 1976
CDR Richard K. Pottratz	01 Aug 1977
CDR James W. Partington	30 Nov 1978
CDR James S. Zayicek	10 May 1980
CDR Dennis V. McGinn	24 Sep 1981
CDR Joseph E. Hart	16 Dec 1982
CDR Hugh D. Connell II	01 May 1984
CDR Joseph P. Sciabarra	25 Oct 1985
CDR Malcolm P. Branch	29 May 1987
CDR Richard E. Clayton	03 Sep 1988
CDR Stanford H. Hlavka	29 Mar 1990

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
A-7A	Jan 1969
A-7E	30 Jun 1970
F/A-18A	20 Feb 1991



Two squadron A-7E Corsair IIs fly along a deserted coast line during their deployment to the Indian Ocean, 1986.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
28 May 1968	31 Jan 1969	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Aug 1969	08 May 1970	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Jun 1971	12 Feb 1972	CVW-14	CVAN 65	A-7E	WestPac/ Vietnam/IO
12 Sep 1972	11 Jun 1973	CVW-14	CVAN 65	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
17 Sep 1974	20 May 1975	CVW-14	CVAN 65	A-7E	WestPac /IO
30 Jul 1976	28 Mar 1977	CVW-14	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO
04 Apr 1978	30 Oct 1978	CVW-14	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO
13 Nov 1979	11 Jun 1980	CVW-14	CV 43	A-7E	WestPac/IO
20 Aug 1981	23 Mar 1982	CVW-14	CV 43	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 Mar 1983	12 Sep 1983	CVW-14	CV 43	A-7E	World Cruise
13 Oct 1984	24 May 1985	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	WestPac/IO
12 Aug 1986	05 Feb 1987	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	WestPac/IO
15 Jun 1988	14 Dec 1988	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	WestPac/IO
05 Sep 1989	09 Nov 1989	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	NorPac/WestPac
01 Feb 1990	29 Jul 1990	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	WestPac/IO

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMFAIRALAMEDA		01 Sep 1967
CVW-14	NK	05 Jan 1968
CVW-15	NL	21 Nov 1983

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
AFEM	16 Oct 1969	24 Oct 1969
	16 Mar 1970	23 Mar 1970
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	14 Jun 1968	23 Jan 1969
MUC	07 Sep 1969	30 Apr 1970
	02 Jul 1971	03 Feb 1972
	22 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	10 Nov 1984	07 May 1985
	16 Jan 1987	02 Feb 1987
	01 Feb 1980	05 May 1980
NEM	11 Oct 1981	20 Oct 1981
	03 Oct 1972	22 Feb 1973
NUC	27 Jun 1968	22 Jul 1968
VNSM	02 Aug 1968	28 Aug 1968

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	11 Sep 1968	09 Oct 1968
	23 Oct 1968	29 Nov 1968
	09 Dec 1968	21 Dec 1968
	01 Jan 1969	07 Jan 1969
	11 Sep 1969	03 Oct 1969
	01 Nov 1969	23 Nov 1969
	07 Dec 1969	22 Dec 1969
	05 Jan 1970	30 Jan 1970
	12 Feb 1970	01 Mar 1970
	26 Mar 1970	17 Apr 1970
	14 Jul 1971	31 Jul 1971
	15 Aug 1971	14 Sep 1971
	12 Sep 1971	
	25 Sep 1971	26 Sep 1971
	02 Oct 1972	23 Oct 1972
	01 Nov 1972	11 Dec 1972
	18 Dec 1972	13 Jan 1973
	24 Jan 1973	23 Feb 1973
	01 Mar 1973	02 Mar 1973
	11 Mar 1973	28 Mar 1973
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
NAVE	01 Jan 1985	31 Dec 1985



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet in flight, 1992.

VFA-37

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron THIRTY SEVEN (VA-37) on 1 July 1967.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron THIRTY SEVEN (VFA-37) on 28 November 1990. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-37 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 26 March 1968. A design centering on a Bull was



The squadron has used the Bulls insignia since March 1968.

selected to symbolize the spirit, pride and mission of the unit. The insignia colors are as follows: a light blue circular background surrounded by a white border outlined in black; red-brown bull with a black mane, white horns tipped with red and the nostrils emitting clouds of white steam; white

teeth and a red eye; and a dark blue scroll outlined in black with lettering in white.

Nickname: Bulls, 1968-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

Jul-Nov 1967: Squadron personnel were trained by VA-174 in the operation of the A-7A Corsair II.

Sep 1970: Fighting erupted between Palestinian forces and the Jordanian Army as a result of the Palestinian hijacking of several civilian airliners to Jordan. *Saratoga* (CVA 60) with its embarked air wing, including VA-37, was directed to operate in the eastern Mediterranean in response to this crisis. The conflict intensified when Syria invaded Jordan and VA-37 remained on station until the latter part of September when the Jordanian Army had successfully repulsed the Syrians and the crisis had abated.

29 Sep 1970: VA-37 participated in an air power demonstration for President Nixon during his two day visit to *Saratoga* while she steamed in the Med.

Jun-Oct 1971: VA-37 participated in the test and evaluation of the new CV concept during the *Saratoga's* deployment to the North Atlantic and the Mediterranean Sea. The CV concept involved combining the capabilities of the attack and antisubmarine carriers (CVA and CVS) into a single ship.

1 Aug 1972: While on a combat mission near the island of Hon Nieu, off the coast of North Vietnam, a squadron's A-7A Corsair II was used to establish a sonobuoy field in an anchorage area. This was the first time an A-7 had ever been used to drop sonobuoys.

Jun 1982: *John F. Kennedy*, with VA-37 embarked, took station off the coast of Lebanon after Israel invaded that country.

Jun 1984: The primary mission of the squadron was changed to close air support in preparation for its deployment to MCAS Iwakuni as part of the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program. VA-37's deployment was scheduled as a replacement for a Marine Corps A-4M squadron. Two Navy A-7 squadrons had been selected for the program because the A-7 Corsair II was very similar in size and make-up to a Marine Corps A-4 Skyhawk squadron. The deployment of the two Navy attack squadrons was designed to test the interoperational abilities of the Marine Corps and Navy.

Dec 1984: VA-37 deployed to MCAS Iwakuni and relieved VA-105. VA-105 was the first Navy squadron to participate in the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program and it was also the first time a Navy squadron came under the operational control of the Marine Corps since World War II.

Mar 1985: While deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, the squadron was detached to Yechon, Korea, to participate in exercise Team Spirit 85. This was the first time a Navy carrier-based squadron had deployed in field conditions since World War II.



A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs, 1989.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Cecil Field	01 Jul 1967

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR James A. Burnett	01 Jul 1967
CDR J. R. Tappan	08 Nov 1968
CDR K. E. Moranville	Sep 1969
CDR C. B. Hawkins, Jr.	03 Jul 1970
CDR Thomas F. Brown III	28 May 1971
CDR Jerome F. Watson	07 Jan 1972
CDR Clarence E. Armstrong	22 Feb 1973
CDR James W. Keathley	21 Mar 1974
CDR George K. Coyne, Jr.	10 Jul 1975
CDR Richard W. Hamon	15 Oct 1976
CDR Robert J. Spane	12 Jan 1978

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR A. Coward IV	18 Apr 1979
CDR W. B. Christie	03 Jul 1980
CDR Leroy A. Farr	21 Oct 1981
CDR Robert L. Ramsay III	01 Feb 1983
CDR Brian L. Lehman	12 Jul 1984
CDR Jeffrey Harrison	05 Dec 1985
CDR James R. O'Hora	02 Jul 1987
CDR L. Scott Jacobsen	14 Dec 1988
CDR Carroll L. White	22 Jun 1990

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-7A	Aug 1967
A-7E	23 Apr 1973
F/A-18A	13 Dec 1990

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
30 Dec 1968	04 Sep 1969	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
17 Jun 1970	09 Nov 1970	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-7A	Med
07 Jun 1971	28 Oct 1971	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-7A	NorLant/Med
11 Apr 1972	13 Feb 1973	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7A	SoLant/IO/West Pac/Vietnam
27 Sep 1974	19 Mar 1975	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
06 Jan 1976	28 Jul 1976	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
11 Jul 1977	23 Dec 1977	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
03 Oct 1978	05 Apr 1979	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
10 Mar 1980	27 Aug 1980	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
04 Jan 1982	14 Jul 1982	CVW-3	CV 67	A-7E	Med/IO
01 Mar 1983	29 Oct 1983	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	World Cruise
01 Dec 1984	14 Jun 1985	MAG-12	MCAS Iwakuni	A-7E	Japan/WestPac
02 Jun 1986	10 Nov 1986	CVW-6	CV 59	A-7E	Med
28 Aug 1987	09 Oct 1987	CVW-6	CV 59	A-7E	NorLant
25 Apr 1988	07 Oct 1988	CVW-6	CV 59	A-7E	Med/IO/NorLant
04 Nov 1989	12 Apr 1990	CVW-6	CV 59	A-7E	Med

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		Jul 1967
CVW-11	NH	Oct 1968
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		Sep 1969
CVW-3	AC	Jan 1970
CVW-15	NL	01 Oct 1982

Air Wing Assignments—Continued

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMLATWING ONE		Oct 1983
MAG-12, 1st MAW*		01 Dec 1984
CVW-6	AE	Aug 1985
COMLATWING ONE		01 Oct 1990

* VA-37 was assigned to MAG-12, 1st MAW during its shorebased deployment to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1971	31 Dec 1972
	01 Jan 1989	31 Dec 1989
MUC	17 Sep 1970	18 Oct 1970
	04 May 1971	17 May 1972
	09 Jan 1973	03 May 1977
	01 Oct 1979	15 Nov 1980
	01 Jan 1989	01 Apr 1990
NUC	15 Jan 1969	27 Aug 1969
	18 May 1972	08 Jan 1973
VNSM	27 Jan 1969	01 Mar 1969
	12 Mar 1969	05 Apr 1969
	17 Apr 1969	10 May 1969

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	28 Jun 1969	15 Jul 1969
	27 Jul 1969	16 Aug 1969
	06 May 1972	07 May 1972
	17 May 1972	22 Jun 1972
	30 Jun 1972	16 Jul 1972
	27 Jul 1972	23 Aug 1972
	02 Sep 1972	19 Sep 1972
	29 Sep 1972	21 Oct 1972
	25 Oct 1972	26 Oct 1972
	03 Nov 1972	08 Dec 1972
	18 Dec 1972	31 Dec 1972



Two squadron F/A-18C Hornets in flight over snow-covered mountains; note the bull on the tail of each aircraft, 1992.

VFA-81

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron SIXTY SIX (VA-66) on 1 July 1955.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron EIGHTY ONE (VF-81) on 1 July 1955, the same day it was established as VA-66.

Redesignated Attack Squadron EIGHTY ONE (VA-81) on 1 July 1959.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHTY ONE (VFA-81) on 4 February 1988. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-66, VA-81 and VFA-81 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 16 December 1955. Colors for the insignia were: a light blue background with an outer ring of alternating red and yellow sections, outlined in black; white cloud with black markings; black cougar with white markings and red eyes, mouth and claws; gray knight with black markings; red scarf; red and yellow helmet plume, shield and lance outlined in black; red scroll outlined in black, with yellow lettering.



The squadron's first insignia, the Crusaders, was approved in 1955.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 21 November 1963. Color for this insignia were: a black background outlined in international orange; international orange mach wave design; orange scroll with black lettering.

A modification to the squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 30 March 1988. Colors for this insignia are: a dark blue background outlined in



The squadron's second insignia was a stylized mach wave design, approved in 1963.



When the squadron was redesignated VFA a modification to its second insignia was approved for use in 1988.

orange; orange scrolls with black lettering; silver stars and stylized aircraft; gold aircraft contrails and an orange mach wave design.

Nickname: Crusaders, 1955–1963.

Sunliners, 1963–present.

Chronology of Significant Events

Nov–Dec 1956: *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42), with VF-81 embarked, was ordered to deploy and operate off the coast of Spain as a result of the Suez Canal crisis.

Apr–May 1957: VF-81, while deployed to the Mediterranean aboard *Lake Champlain* (CVA 39), operated off the coast of Lebanon during a crisis in Jordan.

Oct 1961–Feb 1962: VA-81 Det 45 deployed to the North Atlantic embarked in *Essex* (CVS 9). The detachment was part of CVSG-56, and with its A4D Skyhawks employing Sidewinder missiles, provided air cover for antisubmarine units embarked in *Essex*. The detachment was the first jet unit to function as part of an antisubmarine killer force.

Sep 1969: *John F. Kennedy* (CVA 67), with VA-81 embarked, were ordered to operate off the coast of Libya following a coup that overthrew the Libyan monarchy on 1 September 1969.

2–5 Dec 1972: The squadron's A-7E Corsair II aircraft conducted cross-deck operations with the British carrier HMS *Ark Royal*.

Jul–Aug 1974: The squadron operated from *Forrestal* (CVA 59) in the vicinity of Cyprus following a coup in that country and its invasion by Turkish forces. Surveillance and cover missions were flown by the squadron during the crisis.

May–Jun 1981: Embarked in *Forrestal*, VA-81 operated in the eastern Mediterranean following Israeli reprisal raids against Syrian missile batteries located in southern Lebanon.

Aug 1981: The squadron participated a Freedom of Navigation Exercise in the Gulf of Sidra. During this exercise two F-14 Tomcats from *Nimitz* (CVN 68) shot down two Libyan SU-22 Fitters on 18 August. Tensions escalated and VA-81 flew reconnaissance missions over potentially hostile Libyan ships.

24 Mar 1986: Following a Libyan SA-5 missile firing against U.S. naval aircraft operating in the Gulf of Sidra during a Freedom of Navigation exercise, VA-81 aircraft participated in a retaliatory strike against the missile site at Surt, Libya. Squadron aircraft acted as the decoy group for VA-83's HARM strike against the Libyan missile radar site.

Aug–Dec 1990: The squadron participated in Operation Desert Shield, the build-up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait.



A squadron F9F-8B in flight, 1957 (Courtesy Duane Kasulka Collection).

Home Port Assignment

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Oceana	01 Jul 1955
NAS Cecil Field	01 May 1966

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Merle M. Hershey	01 Jul 1955
LCDR Robert Godman	30 Jul 1957
LCDR J. M. Scarborough	15 Aug 1958
CDR Lawrence Heyworth, Jr.	17 Oct 1958
CDR William P. Kiser	04 Nov 1959
CDR Richard E. Rumble	09 Nov 1960
CDR John N. Longfield	31 Oct 1961
CDR Robert B. Gohr	01 Dec 1962
CDR Grover K. Gregory	01 Oct 1963
CDR Nicholas A. Castruccio	06 Oct 1964
CDR Burton H. Sheperd	16 Oct 1965
CDR Edward A. Grunwald	20 Sep 1966
CDR Melville D. Cunningham	19 Sep 1967
CDR Lloyd M. Westphal	25 Sep 1968
CDR John J. Lahr	24 Jul 1969
CDR Richard J. Damico	12 Jun 1970
CDR Thomas C. Watson, Jr.	14 Apr 1971
CDR Jerry O. Tuttle	18 Feb 1972
CDR Kenneth A. Dickerson	18 Feb 1973
CDR Ralph E. Whitby	21 Feb 1974
CDR Robert V. Sallada	03 Mar 1975

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Richard Birtwistle III	03 Jun 1976
CDR Jerry O. Yarborough	30 Jun 1977
CDR Philip H. Jacobs	14 Jul 1978
CDR James E. Killian	26 Jul 1979
CDR George J. Webb, Jr.	18 Dec 1980
CDR William C. Miller III	09 Mar 1982
CDR William E. Beaty III	Sep 1983
CDR Kenneth C. Cech	07 Mar 1985
CDR Jay M. Munninghoff	02 Jul 1986
CDR William N. Deaver, Jr.	04 Feb 1988
CDR Gerald L. Hoewing	11 May 1989
CDR Michael T. Anderson	29 Aug 1990

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F9F-8	Aug 1955
F9F-8B	Apr 1956
A4D-2/A-4B*	04 Mar 1959
A-4E	03 Apr 1963
A-4C	Sep 1967
A-7E	May 1970
F/A-18C	30 Mar 1988

* The A4D-2 designation was changed to A-4B in 1962.



A squadron A-4C Skyhawk after completing a successful landing aboard John F. Kennedy (CVA 67) in 1969.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
21 Jan 1957	27 Jul 1957	ATG-182	CVA 39	F9F-8/8B	Med
09 Jun 1958	08 Aug 1958	ATG-181	CVA 11	F9F-8	NorLant
28 Jan 1960	31 Aug 1960	CVG-8	CVA 59	A4D-2	Med
09 Feb 1961	25 Aug 1961	CVG-8	CVA 59	A4D-2	Med
03 Aug 1962	02 Mar 1963	CVG-8	CVA 59	A4D-2	Med
10 Jul 1964	13 Mar 1965	CVW-8	CVA 59	A-4E	Med
24 Aug 1965	07 Apr 1966	CVW-8	CVA 59	A-4E	Med
29 Sep 1966	20 May 1967	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4E	Med
15 Nov 1967	04 Aug 1968	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4C	Med
05 Apr 1969	21 Dec 1969	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-4C	Med
05 Jan 1971	02 Jul 1971	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-7E	Med
22 Sep 1972	06 Jul 1973	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-7E	Med
11 Mar 1974	11 Sep 1974	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-7E	Med
05 Mar 1975	22 Sep 1975	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med
04 Apr 1978	26 Oct 1978	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med/NorLant
27 Nov 1979	07 May 1980	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med
02 Mar 1981	15 Sep 1981	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med/NorLant
08 Jun 1982	16 Nov 1982	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med/IO
02 Apr 1984	20 Oct 1984	CVW-17	CV 60	A-7E	Med
26 Aug 1985	16 Apr 1986	CVW-17	CV 60	A-7E	Med/IO
05 Jun 1987	17 Nov 1987	CVW-17	CV 60	A-7E	Med
07 Aug 1990	28 Mar 1991	CVW-17	CV 60	F/A-18C	Med/Red Sea



A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs over NAS Cecil Field, Florida, in 1970.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
ATG-182	O	01 Jul 1955
CVG-17	R	Nov 1956
ATG-182	O/AN*	Dec 1956
ATG-181	AM	15 Mar 1958
CVG-8/CVW-8†	AJ	08 Aug 1958
CVW-1	AB	25 Aug 1968
COMFAIRJACKSON- VILE		02 Mar 1970
COMLATWING 1		01 Jun 1970
CVW-17	AA	01 Aug 1970

* The tail code was changed from O to AN in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† CVG-8 was redesignated CVW-8 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1968	31 Dec 1969
	01 Jan 1973	30 Jun 1974
	01 Jan 1987	31 Dec 1987
NUC	10 Oct 1985	11 Oct 1985
	23 Mar 1986	29 Mar 1986
	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
MUC	28 Feb 1979	07 May 1980
NEM	05 Sep 1982	10 Sep 1982
SASM	13 Oct 1982	05 Nov 1982
	20 Jan 1986	29 Mar 1986
	22 Aug 1990	21 Sep 1990
KLM	23 Oct 1990	09 Dec 1990
	06 Jan 1991	11 Mar 1991
	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991



A squadron F/A-18C in flight, 1988.

VFA-82

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron EIGHTY TWO (VA-82) on 1 May 1967.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHTY TWO (VFA-82) on 13 July 1987. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-82 and VFA-82 designations.



This is the only insignia the squadron has used since it was established in 1967. When it was redesignated VFA in 1987, the squadron changed the ATKRON 82 acronym in the scroll to STRK-FITRON 82.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 8 November 1967. Colors for the insignia are: a white background outlined in blue; blue shield outlined in black; brown eagle with white and black markings; yellow trident outlined in black; and a blue scroll with white lettering.

Nickname: Marauders, 1967-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

31 May 1968: The squadron participated in its first combat operations, flying sorties over North Vietnam.

Jul-Oct 1972: The squadron participated in Operation Linebacker I, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam.

Dec 1972: The squadron participated in Linebacker II operations, a more intensified version of Linebacker I operations.

Jan 1980: After the U.S. Embassy staff was taken hostage in Tehran, Iran, VA-82 departed Naples, Italy, embarked in *Nimitz* (CVN 68), enroute to the Indian Ocean via the Cape of Good Hope. This was the beginning of 144 consecutive days at sea for the squadron.

Oct 1981: Following the assassination of President Sadat of Egypt, *Nimitz*, with VA-82 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Egypt.

Jun 1985: *Nimitz*, with VA-82 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Lebanon due to the hijacking of TWA flight 847 by Arab radicals. The carrier and squadron remained on station until the release of the hostages in the latter part of July.

Sep 1989: Squadron aircraft flew support missions during the evacuation of the American Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.

12 Feb-7 Apr 1990: VFA-82 was embarked in *Constellation* (CV 64) during its transit from the west coast to the east coast via the Straits of Magellan.



A squadron A-7A Corsair II preparing to launch from Coral Sea (CVA 43) while deployed to Vietnam in 1969.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Cecil Field	01 May 1967

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR J. A. Burnett	20 Jul 1967
CDR J. E. Jones	05 Sep 1967
CDR D. P. Thomas	08 Jan 1969
CDR E. M. Clemens	01 Dec 1969
CDR James M. Gleim	30 Oct 1970
CDR Thomas P. Scott	22 Oct 1971
CDR Donald M. Sumner	02 Sep 1972
CDR Jerry C. Breast	25 Oct 1973
CDR Peter R. Schoeffel	13 Aug 1974
CDR Douglas P. Dunbar, Jr.	04 Aug 1975
CDR Thomas A. Mercer	04 Nov 1976
CDR Donald B. Hunt	16 Nov 1977
CDR David M. Gist	Jan 1979
CDR Robert B. Newell, Jr.	12 Mar 1980
CDR Dan H. Ryder	01 May 1981
CDR David H. Finney	14 Jul 1982
CDR Dennis J. Carroll	23 Feb 1984
CDR Robert J. Sanderson	06 Jul 1985
CDR Gerald A. Pike	23 Feb 1987
CDR Richard A. Eason	02 Sep 1988
CDR James Ross	02 Feb 1990

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
A-7A	Jun 1967
A-7E	08 Sep 1970
A-7C	Apr 1972
A-7E	Nov 1974
F/A-18C	09 Nov 1987



Two squadron A-7E Corsair IIs in flight, showing the low-visibility paint scheme, 1987.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
10 Apr 1968	16 Dec 1968	CVW-6	CVA 66	A-7A	WorldCruise/ Vietnam
23 Sep 1969	01 Jul 1970	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Jul 1971	16 Dec 1971	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7E	Med
05 Jun 1972	24 Mar 1973	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7C	WestPac/Vietnam
03 Jan 1974	03 Aug 1974	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7C	Med
06 Sep 1974	12 Oct 1974	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7C	NorLant
16 Jul 1975	24 Sep 1975	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Carib/NorLant
07 Jul 1976	07 Feb 1977	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med
01 Dec 1977	20 Jul 1978	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med/NorLant
10 Sep 1979	26 May 1980	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med/SoLant/IO
29 Aug 1980	17 Oct 1980	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	NorLant
03 Aug 1981	12 Feb 1982	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med
10 Nov 1982	20 May 1983	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Carib/Med
08 Mar 1985	04 Oct 1985	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Carib/Med
15 Aug 1986	16 Oct 1986	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	NorLant
30 Dec 1986	26 Jul 1987	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med/SoLant/ West Coast
08 Feb 1989	03 Apr 1989	CVW-1	CV 66	F/A-18C	Carib/NorLant
11 May 1989	10 Nov 1989	CVW-1	CV 66	F/A-18C	Med/IO
28 Dec 1990	18 Apr 1991	CVW-1	CV 66	F/A-18C	Med/Red Sea/ Persian Gulf

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE*		01 Sep 1967
CVW-6	AE	01 Dec 1967
CVW-15	NL	1969
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		01 Jul 1970
CVW-8	AJ	Apr 1971
COMLATWING 1		01 Sep 1987
CVW-1	AB	1988

* Between 1 May and 1 September 1967 the squadron was under the administrative control of VA-174 during its training in the A-7 Corsair II.

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
17 Aug 1968	12 Sep 1968
27 Sep 1968	30 Oct 1968
26 Oct 1969	18 Nov 1969
22 Dec 1969	19 Jan 1970
17 Feb 1970	09 Mar 1970
19 Mar 1970	11 Apr 1970
28 Apr 1970	01 Jun 1970
02 Jul 1972	04 Jul 1972
11 Jul 1972	24 Jul 1972
10 Aug 1972	28 Aug 1972
06 Sep 1972	07 Oct 1972
11 Oct 1972	12 Oct 1972
20 Oct 1972	01 Dec 1972
09 Dec 1972	27 Dec 1972
09 Jan 1973	02 Feb 1973
12 Feb 1973	16 Feb 1973
21 Feb 1973	25 Feb 1973
10 Dec 1969	11 Dec 1969
27 Oct 1969	01 Jun 1970
14 Jul 1972	20 Feb 1973
14 Jan 1980	14 May 1980
05 Dec 1982	31 Dec 1982
21 Jan 1983	13 Feb 1983
18 Feb 1983	24 Feb 1983
19 Mar 1983	21 Mar 1983
18 Apr 1983	22 Apr 1983
15 Jan 1991	03 Apr 1991
17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1975	30 Sep 1976
	01 Jan 1989	31 Dec 1989
NUC	12 May 1968	20 Nov 1968
	23 Jan 1980	01 May 1980
	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
RVNGC	30 May 1968	02 Jun 1968
	29 Sep 1968	
	10 Oct 1968	12 Oct 1968
	17 Oct 1968	
VNSM	29 May 1968	28 Jun 1968
	06 Jul 1968	03 Aug 1968



A squadron F/A-18C Hornet in flight, 1987.

VFA-83

Lineage

Reserve Fighter Squadron NINE HUNDRED SIXTEEN (VF-916) called to active duty on 1 February 1951.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron EIGHTY THREE (VF-83) on 4 February 1953.

Redesignated Attack Squadron EIGHTY THREE (VA-83) on 1 July 1955.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHTY THREE (VFA-83) on 3 March 1988. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-83 and VFA-83 designations.



The squadron's first insignia, the bull with machine guns, was approved in 1950.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 16 May 1950. Colors for the insignia were: a yellow background; black bull with brown hair around the horns; white horns with light blue shading; the teeth, eye and smoke were white; the nose,

mouth and ring around the eye were pink.

A new squadron insignia was approved by CNO on 12 April 1957. Colors for the Rampager insignia are: a light blue background outlined in gold; blue scroll outlined in black with black lettering; white ram's head with black markings; red eyes; and white horns with yellow, green and black markings.



The squadron adopted the ram head insignia in 1957 and has used this design for the past four decades.

Nickname: The Roaring Bulls, 1950–1953.

Rampagers, 1957 to present.

Chronology of Significant Events

12 Mar 1956: VA-83, equipped with F7U-3M Cutlass aircraft and Sparrow I missiles, departed Norfolk, Virginia, embarked in *Intrepid* (CVA 11), for deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. This was the first overseas deployment of a naval missile squadron.

Dec 1957: The squadron was the first fleet squadron to receive the A4D-2 Skyhawk. This version of the

Skyhawk was the first to be equipped with an inflight refueling capability.

Jul-Aug 1958: Following continued civil violence in Lebanon, VA-83 operating from *Essex* (CVA 9) flew sorties during the U.S. Marine Corps landings in Lebanon to support the Lebanese government and protect American lives. During the squadron's more than 500 sorties, two of its aircraft were hit by hostile small arms fire during road reconnaissance missions, no casualties were sustained.

Sep 1958: On 23 August 1958 the People's Republic of China began shelling the Quemoy Islands held by the Republic of China. *Essex*, with VA-83 embarked, was ordered to transit the Suez Canal and augment the 7th Fleet forces in the Taiwan Straits. During September the squadron conducted flight operations while operating in the Taiwan Straits.

Aug 1962: A squadron A4D-2N Skyhawk cross-decked on the British carrier HMS *Hermes*.

Sep 1969: *John F. Kennedy* (CVA 67), with VA-83 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Libya following a coup that overthrew the Libyan monarchy on 1 September 1969.

Jul-Aug 1974: The squadron operated from *Forrestal* (CVA 59) in the vicinity of Cyprus following a coup in that country and its invasion by Turkish forces.

May-Jun 1981: Embarked in *Forrestal*, VA-83 operated in the eastern Mediterranean following Israeli reprisal raids against Syrian missile batteries located in southern Lebanon.

Aug 1981: The squadron participated in a Freedom of Navigation Exercise in the Gulf of Sidra. During this exercise two F-14 Tomcats from *Nimitz* (CVN 68) shot down two Libyan SU-22 Fitters on 18 August. Tensions escalated and VA-83 flew reconnaissance missions over potentially hostile Libyan ships.

24 Mar 1986: Following a Libyan SA-5 missile firing against U.S. naval aircraft operating in the Gulf of Sidra during a Freedom of Navigation exercise, VA-83 aircraft participated in a retaliatory strike against the missile site at Surt, Libya. Squadron aircraft fired HARMs against the Libyan missile radar site. This was the first use of the AGM-88 HARM missile in combat.

Aug-Dec 1990: The squadron participated in Operation Desert Shield, the build-up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Jacksonville	01 Feb 1951
NAAS Oceana/NAS Oceana*	Sep 1951
NAS Cecil Field	15 Jun 1966

* NAAS Oceana was redesignated NAS Oceana on 1 April 1952.



A squadron F7U-3M Cutlass preparing for a launch from Intrepid (CVA 11) in 1956.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR A. J. Fecke	Apr 1950
CDR W. R. Sisley	16 Dec 1952
CDR R. J. Swanson	Dec 1953
CDR H. E. Vita	28 Jan 1955
CDR James L. Holloway III	12 Sep 1956
CDR Albert H. Vito, Jr.	05 Dec 1958
CDR David S. Stear	15 Jan 1960
CDR James W. Nance	02 Dec 1960
CDR James Spargo	15 Dec 1961
CDR A. H. Cummings	10 Dec 1962
CDR R. G. Thomson, Jr.	20 Dec 1963
CDR F. B. Bromley	19 Dec 1964
CDR E. S. Carver	07 Dec 1965
CDR G. F. Brummitt	08 Dec 1966
CDR D. M. Trimble	Nov 1967
CDR F. J. Almberg	Sep 1968
CDR Theodore C. Casimes	02 Sep 1969
CDR William M. Shewchuk	04 Jan 1971
CDR D. B. Gilbert	12 Jan 1972
CDR J. E. Craig, Jr.	03 Jan 1973
CDR G. A. Appelhof	14 Feb 1974
CDR A. H. Henderson	15 May 1975
CDR John M. Waples	05 Aug 1976
CDR Robert J. Naughton	27 Nov 1977
CDR R. E. Wolf	28 Feb 1979
CDR Austin E. Chapman	29 May 1980

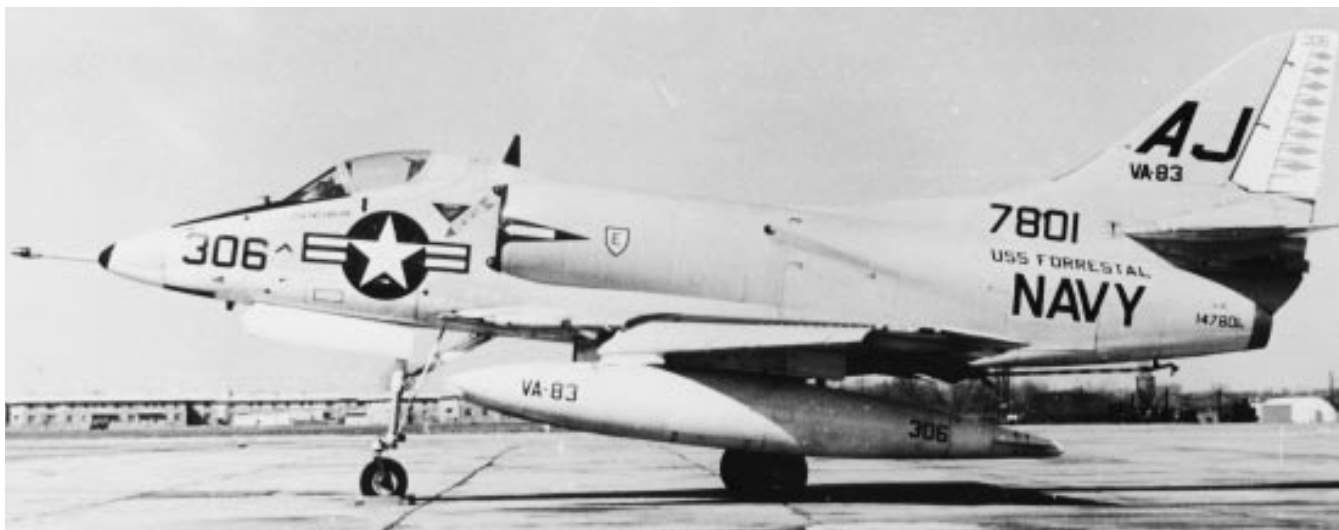
Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Douglas J. Bradt	21 Jan 1982
CDR W. E. Franson	28 Apr 1983
CDR S. F. Bloyer	10 Sep 1984
CDR R. J. Nibe	24 Apr 1986
CDR Terry A. Miller	28 Sep 1987
CDR Michael W. Longworth	03 Jun 1988
CDR Dennis M. Gillespie	30 Nov 1989

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F4U-4	Feb 1951
F9F-2	Dec 1951
F8F-2	May 1952
F9F-5	Sep 1952
F7U-3	Aug 1954
F7U-3M	Apr 1955
A4D-1	Mar 1957
A4D-2	15 Dec 1957
A4D-2N/A-4C*	14 Sep 1960
A-4E	May 1963
A-4C	Aug 1967
A-7E	19 Jun 1970
F/A-18C	25 Apr 1988

* The A4D-2N designation was changed to A-4C in 1962.



A squadron A4D-2N (A-4C) Skyhawk, circa 1960–1962.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
26 Apr 1953	21 Oct 1953	CVG-8	CVA 43	F9F-5	Med
12 Mar 1956	05 Sep 1956	CVG-8	CVA 11	F7U-3M	Med
02 Feb 1958	17 Nov 1958	ATG-201	CVA 9	A4D-2	Med/IO/WestPac
28 Jan 1960	31 Aug 1960	CVG-8	CVA 59	A4D-2	Med
09 Feb 1961	25 Aug 1961	CVG-8	CVA 59	A4D-2N	Med
03 Aug 1962	02 Mar 1963	CVG-8	CVA 59	A-4C	Med
10 Jul 1964	13 Mar 1965	CVW-8	CVA 59	A-4E	Med
24 Aug 1965	07 Apr 1966	CVW-8	CVA 59	A-4E	Med
29 Sep 1966	20 May 1967	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4E	Med
15 Nov 1967	04 Aug 1968	CVW-8	CVA 38	A-4C	Med
05 Apr 1969	21 Dec 1969	CVW-1	CVA 67	A-4C	Med
05 Jan 1971	02 Jul 1971	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-7E	Med
22 Sep 1972	06 Jul 1973	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-7E	Med
11 Mar 1974	11 Sep 1974	CVW-17	CVA 59	A-7E	Med
05 Mar 1975	22 Sep 1975	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med
04 Apr 1978	26 Oct 1978	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med/NorLant
27 Nov 1979	07 May 1980	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med
02 Mar 1981	15 Sep 1981	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med/NorLant
08 Jun 1982	16 Nov 1982	CVW-17	CV 59	A-7E	Med/IO
02 Apr 1984	20 Oct 1984	CVW-17	CV 60	A-7E	Med
26 Aug 1985	16 Apr 1986	CVW-17	CV 60	A-7E	Med/IO
05 Jun 1987	17 Nov 1987	CVW-17	CV 60	A-7E	Med
07 Aug 1990	28 Mar 1991	CVW-17	CV 60	F/A-18C	Med/Red Sea

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-8	E	Apr 1951
ATG-201	AP	15 Oct 1957
CVG-8/CVW-8*	AJ	18 Nov 1958
CVW-1	AB	25 Aug 1968
COMFAIRJACKSON- VILLE		02 Mar 1970

Air Wing Assignments—Continued

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMLATWING 1		01 Jun 1970
CVW-17	AA	01 Aug 1970

* CVG-8 was redesignated CVW-8 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.



A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs in flight during their deployment to the Med aboard Forrestal (CV 59) in 1974.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1960	30 Jun 1961
	01 Jul 1961	30 Jun 1962
	01 Jan 1990	31 Dec 1990
AFEM	16 Jul 1958	01 Aug 1958
	11 Aug 1958	20 Aug 1958
	16 Sep 1958	27 Sep 1958
NEM	05 Sep 1982	10 Sep 1982
	13 Oct 1982	05 Nov 1982

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	20 Jan 1986	29 Mar 1986
	10 Oct 1985	11 Oct 1985
	23 Mar 1986	29 Mar 1986
SASM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
	22 Aug 1990	21 Sep 1990
	23 Oct 1990	09 Dec 1990
KLM	06 Jan 1991	11 Mar 1991
	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991



A squadron F/A-18C Hornet over the bombing range in Florida.

VFA-86

Lineage

Reserve Fighter Squadron NINE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE (VF-921) called to active duty on 1 February 1951.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron EIGHTY FOUR (VF-84) on 4 February 1953.

Redesignated Attack Squadron EIGHTY SIX (VA-86) on 1 July 1955.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHTY SIX (VFA-86) on 15 July 1987. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-86 designation and the first squadron to be assigned the VFA-86 designation.



This was the first insignia approved for and used by the squadron.

with black markings; and a white machine gun and missile with black markings.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 7 April 1954. Colors for the top hat and snake insignia are: a black background outlined in white and black; gold snake with black markings, white fangs, red eyes and tongue; black top hat with white markings; and a black cane outlined in white with gold markings at the top and bottom.

Nickname: Side-winders, 1955-present.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 6 August 1951. Colors for the insignia were: a blue background; red bird with black markings, yellow beak and feet outlined in black and a white eye; yellow aviator wings and anchor



The top hat and snake became the squadron's second insignia in 1954 and has become a well-known design.

Chronology of Significant Events

29 Jun–2 Jul 1953: VF-84 was embarked in *Antietam* (CVA 36) and operated with the British Royal Navy, demonstrating flight operations from the carrier's new angled deck.

7 Jan 1961: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander J. W. Shuff, was killed in an aircraft accident while the squadron was deployed to the Mediterranean.

Apr 1961: The squadron operated from *Independence* (CVA 62) in an area south of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the Bay of Pigs, the unsuccessful invasion of Cuba by American supported Cuban exiles.

Nov 1962: The squadron embarked in *Lexington* (CVS 16) during the Cuban Missile Crisis and operated off the coast of Jacksonville, Florida, on call and available for operations in the Caribbean.

Apr–May 1963: The squadron provided detachments for operation aboard *Randolph* (CVS 15), *Essex* (CVS 9) and *Wasp* (CVS 18). The detachment's A-4C Skyhawks were equipped with Sidewinder missiles and used to provide the ASW carriers with an antiair warfare capability.

1 Jul 1965: The squadron conducted its first combat mission, flying against targets in South Vietnam.

11 Oct 1967: Squadron aircraft and pilots participated in naval gun spotting missions in support of *New Jersey's* (BB 62) shore bombardment role in Vietnam.

Jul–Oct 1972: Squadron aircraft participated in Operation Linebacker I, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam.

Dec 1972: The squadron participated in Linebacker II operations, a more intensified version of Linebacker I operations.

Jan 1980: After the U.S. Embassy staff was taken hostage in Tehran, Iran, VA-86 departed Naples, Italy, embarked in *Nimitz* (CVN 68), enroute to the Indian Ocean via the Cape of Good Hope. This was the beginning of 144 consecutive days at sea for the squadron.

Aug 1981: Embarked in *Nimitz*, the squadron participated in a Freedom of Navigation Exercise in the Gulf of Sidra. During this exercise two F-14 Tomcats from *Nimitz* were fired upon by two Libyan SU-22 Fitters on 18 August. The F-14's returned fire and shot down the two aircraft. Tensions escalated and VA-86 flew refueling and reconnaissance missions over potentially hostile Libyan ships.

Oct 1981: Following the assassination of President Sadat of Egypt, *Nimitz*, with VA-86 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Egypt.

Feb 1983: Following hostile threats against Sudan by Libya, *Nimitz*, with VA-86 embarked, operated off the coast bordering Libya and Egypt.

Jun 1985: *Nimitz*, with VA-86 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Lebanon due to the hijacking of TWA flight 847 by Arab radicals. The carrier and squadron remained on station until the release of the hostages in the latter part of July.

Jan–Feb 1987: VA-86, embarked in *Nimitz*, operated off the coast of Lebanon after three U.S. citizens were taken hostage from the American University in Beirut.

A squadron F4U-4 Corsair prepares to launch from Tarawa (CV 40), September 1951 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).



Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS St. Louis	*
NAS Jacksonville	28 Mar 1951
NAS Oceana	11 Jun 1952
NAS Cecil Field	15 Mar 1966

* As a reserve squadron, it was assigned to NAS St. Louis prior to a recall to active duty in 1951.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT L. H. Pulford	1947*
LCDR Harold L. Buell	Jul 1952
LCDR Herbert V. Ladley	Jul 1953
CDR Chester W. Gates, Jr.	May 1955
LCDR Grant Boice	Sep 1956
LCDR Jack H. Robcke (acting)	Sep 1957
CDR William A. Schroeder, Jr.	24 Sep 1957
CDR Rodney F. Schall	12 Mar 1959
CDR John W. Shuff, Jr.	29 Feb 1960
CDR Sam Rorex, Jr.	07 Jan 1961
CDR Richard J. McAndrew	12 Jan 1962
CDR F. B. Koch	21 Dec 1962
CDR Wilbur J. Burgin	06 Dec 1963
CDR William F. Sallada	11 Dec 1964
CDR William W. Bowers	15 Nov 1965
CDR C. R. Long	16 Nov 1966
CDR J. E. Russ	30 Nov 1967
CDR D. E. Gordon	10 Jan 1969
CDR Standley H. Block	21 Jan 1970
CDR Grant Augustine III	15 Jan 1971
CDR William D. Yonke	28 Jan 1972
CDR Benjamin F. Short	06 Dec 1972
CDR Duane O. Schumacher	14 Dec 1973
CDR Perry W. Gard III	07 Mar 1975
CDR Leighton W. Smith, Jr.	22 Apr 1976

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Herbert W. Taylor	02 Jun 1977
CDR Bernard J. Smith	02 Jun 1978
CDR Virgil F. Jackson, Jr.	19 Nov 1979
CDR John P. Gay	12 Feb 1981
CDR Charles S. Abbot	23 Jun 1982
CDR Ralph J. Castor	16 Jun 1983
CDR John L. Fitzpatrick	29 Jan 1985
CDR John M. Johnson	05 Jun 1986
CDR Howard A. Petrea	28 Jan 1988
CDR Ted J. Venable	1989
CDR Matthew G. Moffit	06 Nov 1990

* Lieutenant Pulford was commanding officer of VF-921 during its reserve status and continued as its commanding officer when it was called to active duty.



A squadron F9F-5 Panther on the deck of Antietam (CVA 36) during her cruise in 1953.



Squadron officers and their F7U-3M Cutlass in the background, November 1955. Bottom row, left to right: Lt. (jg) W. M. Austin, Ens. C. R. Hill, Ens. S. J. Kreider, Ens. D. C. Gandee, Ens. W. E. Dennison, Lt. A. L. Kivien, Lt. (jg) J. F. McNerney, Lt. (jg) G. W. Lenox. Top row, left to right: Lt. (jg) J. T. Bucy, Cdr. C. W. Gates, Jr., Lcdr. R. J. Burns, Lt. (jg) D. A. Kueth, Lt. (jg) R. C. Barron, Lt. (jg) T. B. Green, Lt. (jg) H. W. Hall, Lt. (jg) R. L. Stevenson, and Ens. G. L. Atkinson.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F4U-4	Feb 1951
F8F-2	18 Jun 1952
F9F-5	Sep 1952
F7U-3M	Jun 1955
A4D-1	26 May 1957
A4D-2	24 Dec 1957
A4D-2N/A-4C*	Sep 1962

Aircraft Assignment—Continued

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-4E	28 Apr 1964
A-7A	Feb 1967
A-7E	01 Oct 1970
A-7C	Apr 1972
A-7E	14 Nov 1974
F/A-18C	18 Nov 1987

* The A4D-2N designation was changed to A-4C in 1962.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
28 Nov 1951	11 Jun 1952	CVG-8	CV 40	F4U-4	Med
11 Jun 1953	21 Jul 1953	*	CV 36	F9F-5	NorLant
28 Sep 1954	22 Apr 1955	CVG-8	CVA 39	F9F-5	Med
02 Sep 1958	12 Mar 1959	CVG-7	CVA 15	A4D-2	Med
04 Aug 1960	03 Mar 1961	CVG-7	CVA 62	A4D-2	Med
04 Aug 1961	19 Dec 1961	CVG-7	CVA 62	A4D-2	Med
19 Apr 1962	27 Aug 1962	CVG-7	CVA 62	A4D-2	Med
06 Aug 1963	04 Mar 1964	CVG-7	CVA 62	A-4C	Med
08 Sep 1964	05 Nov 1964	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-4E	NorLant/Med

Major Overseas Deployments—Continued

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
10 May 1965	13 Dec 1965	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
13 Jun 1966	01 Feb 1967	CVW-7	CVA 62	A-4E	Med
10 Apr 1968	16 Dec 1968	CVW-6	CVA 66	A-7A	World Cruise/ Vietnam
23 Sep 1969	01 Jul 1970	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Jul 1971	16 Dec 1971	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7E	Med
05 Jun 1972	24 Mar 1973	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7C	WestPac/Vietnam
03 Jan 1974	03 Aug 1974	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7C	Med
06 Sep 1974	12 Oct 1974	CVW-8	CVA 66	A-7C	NorLant
16 Jul 1975	24 Sep 1975	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Carib/NorLant
07 Jul 1976	07 Feb 1977	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med
01 Dec 1977	20 Jul 1978	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med/NorLant
10 Sep 1979	26 May 1980	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med/SoLant/IO
29 Aug 1980	17 Oct 1980	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	NorLant
03 Aug 1981	12 Feb 1982	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med
10 Nov 1982	20 May 1983	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Carib/Med
08 Mar 1985	04 Oct 1985	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Carib/Med
15 Aug 1986	16 Oct 1986	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	NorLant
30 Dec 1986	26 Jul 1987	CVW-8	CVN 68	A-7E	Med/SoLant/West Coast
08 Feb 1989	03 Apr 1989	CVW-1	CV 66	F/A-18C	Carib/NorLant
11 May 1989	10 Nov 1989	CVW-1	CV 66	F/A-18C	Med/IO
28 Dec 1990	18 Apr 1991	CVW-1	CV 66	F/A-18C	Med/RedSea/ Persian Gulf

* VF-84, VC-4 and VS-27 deployed aboard *Antietam* (CVA 36). The carrier did not have an air group embarked.



Squadron A-4E Skyhawks at NAS Oceana in 1965. Cdr. W. W. Bowers is climbing out of the aircraft. Note the Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club insignia on the forward part of the fuselage and the combat sortie mission marks on the intake.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-8	E	09 Apr 1951
ATG-181	I/AM*	Jul 1955
CVG-7/CVW-7†	AG	15 Jan 1958
CVW-6	AE	16 Oct 1967
CVW-15	NL	1969
COMFAIRJACKSON- VILLE		01 Jul 1970

Air Wing Assignments—Continued

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-8	AJ	Jan 1971
COMLATWING 1		01 Sep 1987
CVW-1	AB	1988

* The tail code was changed from I to AM in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† CVG-7 was redesignated CVW-7 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.



A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs, circa 1978.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1962	30 Jun 1963
	01 Jul 1963	30 Jun 1964
	01 Jan 1982	31 Dec 1982
	01 Jan 1985	31 Dec 1985
AFEM	24 Sep 1958	26 Sep 1958
	15 Jun 1965	
	29 Jun 1965	03 Jul 1965
	10 Dec 1969	11 Dec 1969
MUC	27 Oct 1969	01 Jun 1970

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NEM	14 Jul 1972	20 Feb 1973
	04 Aug 1981	20 May 1983
	19 Apr 1961	29 Apr 1961
	14 Jan 1980	14 May 1980
	05 Dec 1982	31 Dec 1982
	21 Jan 1983	13 Feb 1983
	18 Feb 1983	24 Feb 1983
	19 Mar 1983	21 Mar 1983
	18 Apr 1983	22 Apr 1983

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	05 Jun 1965	21 Nov 1965
	12 May 1968	20 Nov 1968
	23 Jan 1980	01 May 1980
	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
RVNGC	21 Oct 1965	
	23 Oct 1965	
	25 Oct 1965	02 Nov 1965
	09 Nov 1965	10 Nov 1965
	30 May 1968	02 Jun 1968
	20 Sep 1968	
	10 Oct 1968	12 Oct 1968
	17 Oct 1968	
VNSM	04 Jul 1965	09 Aug 1965
	25 Aug 1965	21 Sep 1965
	14 Oct 1965	12 Nov 1965
	29 May 1968	28 Jun 1968
	06 Jul 1968	03 Aug 1968
	17 Aug 1968	12 Sep 1968

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	27 Sep 1968	30 Oct 1968
	26 Oct 1969	18 Nov 1969
	22 Dec 1969	19 Jan 1970
	17 Feb 1970	09 Mar 1970
	19 Mar 1970	11 Apr 1970
	28 Apr 1970	01 Jun 1970
	02 Jul 1972	04 Jul 1972
	11 Jul 1972	24 Jul 1972
	10 Aug 1972	28 Aug 1972
	06 Sep 1972	07 Oct 1972
	11 Oct 1972	12 Oct 1972
	20 Oct 1972	01 Dec 1972
	09 Dec 1972	27 Dec 1972
	09 Jan 1973	02 Feb 1973
	12 Feb 1973	16 Feb 1973
	21 Feb 1973	25 Feb 1973
SASM	15 Jan 1991	03 Apr 1991
KLM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991



A squadron F/A-18C in flight, 1992.

VFA-87

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron EIGHTY SEVEN (VA-87) on 1 February 1968.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron EIGHTY SEVEN (VFA-87) on 1 May 1986. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-87 and VFA-87 designations.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 29 July 1968. Colors for the insignia are: a red back



The squadron's Golden Warrior insignia was approved for use in 1968. When the squadron was redesignated VFA, the designation in the scroll was changed from ATKRON 87 to STRKFITRON 87 or VFA-87.

ground outlined in yellow and black; the Indian, war bonnet, spear and pony are yellow; and the arrow-head is black.

Nickname: Golden Warriors, 1968-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

4 Mar 1969: The squadron flew its first combat missions, striking enemy targets in South Vietnam.

Apr 1969: Following the shoot down of a Navy EC-121 aircraft by the North Koreans, *Ticonderoga* (CVA 14), with VA-87 embarked, was ordered to the Sea of Japan.

Oct–Nov 1973: VA-87, embarked in *Franklin D. Roosevelt* (CVA 42), operated in the vicinity of Crete in response to the Arab-Israeli War.

Jun–Jul 1976: The American Ambassador to Lebanon was assassinated on 13 June and *America* (CV 66), with VA-87 embarked, operated in the vicinity of Lebanon. Squadron aircraft flew support missions during the evacuation of non-combatants from that country.

May 1981: *Independence* (CV 62), with VA-87 embarked, following its transit of the Suez Canal, remained on station in the eastern Mediterranean due to the crisis between Israel and Syria following Israeli raids against Syrian surface-to-air missile sites in Lebanon.

25 Oct–1 Nov 1983: In response to continued political strife and the need to protect and evacuate Americans from the island country of Grenada, VA-87 aircraft flew combat close air support missions during Operation Urgent Fury, the landing of U.S. Marines and Army rangers on the island.

4 Dec 1983: In response to hostile fire against U.S. reconnaissance aircraft from Syrian positions in Lebanon, VA-87 aircraft participated in a coordinated strike against Syrian radar, communications and artillery positions overlooking the Multi-National Peacekeeping Forces. All squadron aircraft completed their mission and returned to the carrier.

A flight of squadron A-7B Corsair IIs in 1971.



Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Cecil Field	01 Feb 1968

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Thomas E. Dunlop	01 Feb 1968
CDR Walter H. McCall	02 May 1969
CDR Robert W. McKay	31 Mar 1970
CDR Richard F. Coleman	26 Mar 1971
CDR John H. Fetterman, Jr.	29 Mar 1972
CDR Edward J. Rice	20 Mar 1973
CDR Ronald G. Horne	1974
CDR J. D. Rasmussen	28 Aug 1975
CDR W. J. Catlett III	30 Nov 1976
CDR Donald A. Gerrish	15 Feb 1978
CDR Lewis W. Dunton III	27 Feb 1979

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Daniel D. Hill	23 Jun 1980
CDR Hugh C. Bowles	03 Sep 1981
CDR Michael F. O'Brien	11 Jan 1983
CDR Douglas G. Knappe	13 Jun 1984
CDR Raymond A. Dudderar	07 Nov 1985
CDR Timothy J. Keating	22 May 1987
CDR Orren R. Crouch	23 Jan 1989
CDR John C. Stencil	14 Jun 1990

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Type First Received</i>
A-7B		09 Jun 1968
A-7E		1975*
F/A-18A		24 Oct 1986

* It is believed VA-87 received its first A-7E in October 1975.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
01 Feb 1969	18 Sep 1969	CVW-16	CVA 14	A-7B	WestPac/Vietnam
29 Jan 1971	23 Jul 1971	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
15 Feb 1972	08 Dec 1972	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
14 Sep 1973	17 Mar 1974	CVW-6	CVA 42	A-7B	Med
03 Jan 1975	16 Jul 1975	CVW-6	CV 42	A-7B	Med
15 Apr 1976	25 Oct 1976	CVW-6	CV 66	A-7E	Med
10 Jun 1977	19 Jul 1977	CVW-6	CV 66	A-7E	SoLant
29 Sep 1977	25 Apr 1978	CVW-6	CV 66	A-7E	Med
28 Jun 1979	14 Dec 1979	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Med
19 Nov 1980	10 Jun 1981	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	SoLant/IO/Med
07 Jun 1982	22 Dec 1982	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Med
18 Oct 1983	11 Apr 1984	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Carib/Med/ NorLant
16 Oct 1984	19 Feb 1985	CVW-6	CV 62	A-7E	Med/IO
25 Aug 1988	11 Oct 1988	CVW-8	CVN 71	F/A-18A	NorLant
30 Dec 1988	30 Jun 1989	CVW-8	CVN 71	F/A-18A	Med
28 Dec 1990	28 Jun 1991	CVW-8	CVN 71	F/A-18A	Med/Red Sea/Persian Gulf



A squadron F/A-18C Hornet in flight, 1991.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		01 Feb 1968
CVW-16	AH	1969
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		Sep 1969
CVW-6	AE	01 Aug 1970
COMLATWING-1		Jul 1985
CVW-8	AJ	01 Sep 1987

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
MUC	18 Feb 1969	07 Sep 1969
	09 Mar 1972	01 Dec 1972
HSM	20 Jun 1976	27 Jul 1976
NEM	07 Dec 1980	11 May 1981
	20 Aug 1982	05 Sep 1982
	01 Oct 1982	06 Dec 1982
NUC	20 Oct 1983	03 Mar 1984
RVNGC	04 Mar 1969	08 Mar 1969
	10 Mar 1969	
	12 Mar 1969	19 Mar 1969
	29 Mar 1969	31 Mar 1969
	02 Apr 1969	03 Apr 1969
	06 Apr 1969	07 Apr 1969
	09 Apr 1969	15 Apr 1969
	10 May 1969	29 May 1969
	31 May 1969	03 Jun 1969
	28 Jun 1969	30 Jun 1969
VNSM	03 Mar 1969	20 Mar 1969
	29 Mar 1969	16 Apr 1969
	09 May 1969	04 Jun 1969
	25 Jun 1969	01 Aug 1969

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
AFEM	20 Apr 1969	27 Apr 1969
	04 Aug 1969	
	16 Aug 1969	24 Aug 1969
	30 Aug 1969	
	24 Oct 1983	02 Nov 1983
	16 Nov 1983	22 Dec 1983
	28 Dec 1983	03 Jan 1984
	15 Jan 1984	03 Feb 1984
	09 Feb 1984	02 Mar 1984



A squadron A-7E Corsair II with a low-visibility paint scheme, 1984.

VFA-94

Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron NINETY FOUR (VF-94) on 26 March 1952.

Redesignated Attack Squadron NINETY FOUR (VA-94) on 1 August 1958.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron NINETY FOUR (VFA-94) on 28 June 1990. The second squadron to be assigned the VA-94 designation and the first to be assigned the VFA-94 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

When the squadron deployed aboard Hornet (CVA 12) during its world cruise in 1954 it was using a cartoon cat insignia. There is no record of this insignia being officially approved for use by the squadron.



This cartoon cat insignia was used by the squadron prior to 1955 but was never officially approved.

The squadron's first official insignia was approved by CNO on 21 November 1955. Colors for the tiger paw insignia were: a blue background outlined in yellow; the tiger paw was yellow, orange and black with the under part of the paw white

with black marks, the claws were black outlined in yellow; the lightning bolts were yellow; and the bomb blast was white with an orange-red center; the scroll was blue with a black outline and lettering.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 21 April 1959. Colors for this insignia were: a light blue background; dark blue stylized aircraft with an orange contrail; dark blue crescent; red atom symbol with dark blue electrons; and an orange scroll with dark blue lettering.

A modification to the insignia was approved by



The tiger paw design was the first insignia approved for use by the squadron, 1955.



The squadron's second insignia used the atom symbol with electrons and a stylized aircraft, 1959.



A modification to the second insignia was approved in 1967. The atom symbol was replaced with a stylized bird design. In 1990, CNO approved another modification to this design, replacing the Attack Squadron 94 designation in the scroll to Strike Fighter Squadron 94.

CNO on 16 May 1967. The atom symbol was replaced by a stylized bird design. The stylized bird was orange and the other colors from the previous design stayed the same.

On 14 September 1990 CNO approved a modification to the insignia which changed the designation in the scroll to Strike Fighter Squadron 94.

Nickname: Shrikes or Mighty Shrikes, 1959-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

May 1963: Following the military losses of Laotian neutralists to the Pathet Lao in the Plaine de Jarres, Laos, *Ranger* (CVA 61) with VA-94 embarked, transited to the South China Sea to support possible operations in Laos.

1 Dec 1964: The squadron flew its first sorties in support of Yankee Team Operations, armed escort for photoreconnaissance missions over Laos.

7 Feb 1965: Following a Viet Cong attack against the American advisors compound at Pleiku, South Vietnam, the President ordered a reprisal strike against North Vietnam, named Flaming Dart I. The squadron's target, Vit Thu Lu barracks, was concealed by heavy weather and the mission was aborted due to the bad weather.

11 Feb 1965: The squadron participated in Flaming Dart II, retaliatory strikes against the Chanh Hoa military barracks near Dong Hoi, North Vietnam.

Mar 1965: The squadron participated in Rolling Thunder strikes against the Phu Qui ammunition depot in North Vietnam.

9 May 1972: The squadron participated in Operation Pocket Money, the mining of Haiphong harbor. Aircraft from VA-94, as well as the other attack squadrons deployed aboard *Coral Sea* (CVA 43), planned and executed the mining of the harbor.

May-Jun 1972: VA-94 participated in operation Linebacker I, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam.

29 Apr 1975: Squadron aircraft provided air cover for Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of American citizens from Saigon.

15 May 1975: VA-94 aircraft, along with other elements from CVW-15 embarked in *Coral Sea*, launched air strikes against the Cambodian mainland after the capture of the SS *Mayaguez* by Cambodian gunboats



Two squadron A-7E Corsair IIs in flight, 1971.

on 12 May. Combat sorties were flown against targets at Ream Naval Facility, Kompong Som Naval Facility and a Cambodian patrol boat.

27 Oct 1979: Following the assassination of Park Chung Hee, President of the Republic of Korea, *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63), with VA-94 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Korea.

21 Nov 1979: *Kitty Hawk*, along with VA-94 and the rest of CVW-15, departed Subic Bay, Philippines, enroute to the Arabian Sea in response to the 4 November Iranian seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran and the taking of over 60 American hostages.

14 Jun 1982: While the squadron was deployed to NAS Fallon for weapons training, its commanding officer, Commander M. A. Gary, was killed in a landing accident.

Apr-Jul 1986: In late April *Enterprise* (CVN 65), with VA-94 embarked, transited the Suez Canal from the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea to augment the carrier forces in the Med. Earlier in the month, American strikes were flown against Libyan military targets as a response to Libya's continuing support of terrorist activity.

Feb-May 1988: The squadron flew air support for Operation Earnest Will, escorting reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Persian Gulf.

18 Apr 1988: VA-94 participated in Operation Praying Mantis, retaliatory strikes against Iranian oil platforms, gunboats and other naval ships after *Sameul B. Roberts* (FFG 58) struck an Iranian mine in international waters on 14 April. Squadron aircraft delivered direct hits on the Iranian frigate *Saband*.

Dec 1989: The squadron participated in Operation Classic Resolve, providing support for the Philippine government during a coup attempt.



A squadron F4U-4 Corsair on the deck of Philippine Sea (CVA 47) during her deployment to Korea, 1952-1953.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Alameda	26 Mar 1952
NAS Moffett Field	Jan 1955
NAS Alameda	20 Aug 1958
NAS Lemoore	08 Mar 1962



A squadron F9F-5 Panther on the deck of Hornet (CVA 12) during her world cruise in 1954.

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Armind T. Holderman	09 Apr 1952
LCDR R. A. Singleton (acting)	Mar 1953
CDR Armind T. Holderman	01 Jul 1953
CDR William T. Harding	Sep 1953
CDR C. H. Gates	Jun 1955
CDR Robert M. Soule	1956
CDR Francis X. Brady	Sep 1956
CDR Richard D. Lazenby	28 Jul 1958
CDR D. G. Patterson	24 Jul 1959
CDR G. M. Hart	02 Sep 1960
CDR J. A. Endacott	20 Dec 1961
CDR Donald Loranger	Dec 1962
CDR Malcolm E. Vail	10 Dec 1963

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Paul A. Peck	05 Nov 1964
CDR Otto E. Krueger	23 Oct 1965
CDR J. H. Wynn III	28 Oct 1966
CDR Joseph B. Wilkinson, Jr.	09 Nov 1967
CDR John E. Wasson	08 Nov 1968
CDR Zygmunt J. Kowalskey, Jr.	26 Nov 1969
CDR Robert B. Browning	22 Oct 1970
CDR David L. Moss	29 Oct 1971
CDR W. A. Lacey	13 Oct 1972
CDR Ted W. Reynolds	26 Sep 1973
CDR Harvey A. Eikel	21 Jan 1975
CDR S. R. Briggs	15 Apr 1976

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR John A. Moriarty	01 Jul 1977
CDR Paul E. Otto	20 Oct 1978
CDR Paul A. Cassiman	20 Jan 1980
CDR James I. Maslowski	23 Mar 1981
CDR M. A. Gary	04 Jun 1982
CDR J. J. Zerr	28 Jun 1982
CDR E. L. Tetrick	14 Feb 1983
CDR Terrence L. Hightower	Jun 1984
CDR Larry S. Doyle	17 Oct 1985
CDR Carl W. Chamberlain	27 Feb 1987
CDR John A. Roe	01 Sep 1988
CDR Lewis G. Mason	26 Apr 1990



A squadron F9F-8B Cougar at NAS Moffett Field, California, June 1957 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
FG-1D	Apr 1952
F4U-4	Aug 1952
F9F-5	Sep 1953
FJ-3	Feb 1955
F9F-8	Nov 1955
F9F-8B	Apr 1956
FJ-3	Jun 1957
FJ-3M	01 Jul 1957

Aircraft Assignment—Continued

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
FJ-3M	01 Jul 1957
FJ-4	25 Aug 1958
A4D-2	11 Jan 1959
A4D-2N/A-4C*	07 Sep 1960
A-4E	23 Oct 1967
A-7E	Jan 1971
F/A-18C	05 May 1990

* The A4D-2N designation was changed to A-4C in 1962.

A squadron FJ-3M Fury, circa 1958 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).



Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
15 Dec 1952	14 Aug 1953	CVG-9	CVA 47	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
11 May 1954	12 Dec 1954	CVG-9	CVA 12	F9F-5	World Cruise
19 Mar 1956	13 Sep 1956	ATG-4	CVA 10	F9F-8B	WestPac
06 Jan 1958	30 Jun 1958	ATG-4	CVA 12	FJ-3M	WestPac
06 Feb 1960	30 Aug 1960	CVG-9	CVA 61	A4D-2	WestPac
11 Aug 1961	08 Mar 1962	CVG-9	CVA 61	A4D-2N	WestPac
09 Nov 1962	14 Jun 1963	CVG-9	CVA 61	A-4C	WestPac
05 Aug 1964	06 May 1965	CVW-9	CVA 61	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Oct 1965	21 Jun 1966	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
05 Jan 1967	22 Jul 1967	CVW-5	CVA 19	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
27 Jan 1968	10 Oct 1968	CVW-5	CVA 31	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
18 Mar 1969	29 Oct 1969	CVW-5	CVA 31	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
02 Apr 1970	12 Nov 1970	CVW-5	CVA 31	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
12 Nov 1971	17 Jul 1972	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
09 Mar 1973	08 Nov 1973	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7E	WestPac
05 Dec 1974	02 Jul 1975	CVW-15	CVA 43	A-7E	WestPac
15 Feb 1977	05 Oct 1977	CVW-15	CV 43	A-7E	WestPac
30 May 1979	25 Feb 1980	CVW-15	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
01 Apr 1981	23 Nov 1981	CVW-15	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
01 Sep 1982	28 Apr 1983	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	NorPac/ WestPac/IO
30 May 1984	20 Dec 1984	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO/ NorPac
12 Jan 1986	13 Aug 1986	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO/ Med/SoLant
25 Oct 1987	24 Nov 1987	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	NorPac
05 Jan 1988	03 Jul 1988	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO/ NorPac
17 Sep 1989	16 Mar 1990	CVW-11	CVN 65	A-7E	World Cruise



A squadron A-4E Skyhawk flies over Bon Homme Richard (CVA 31) during her deployment to Vietnam in 1969.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-9	N	26 Mar 1952
ATG-4	Z/ND*	1955
CVG-9/CVW-9†	NG	01 Aug 1958
CVW-5	NF	01 Jul 1966
COMFAIRLEMOORE		Nov 1970
CVW-15	NL	02 Jan 1971
CVW-11	NH	18 Jan 1982

* The tail code was changed from Z to ND in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† CVG-9 was redesignated CVW-9 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.



A squadron A-7E Corsair II, in a low-visibility paint scheme, preparing to trap aboard Enterprise (CVN 65) in 1989.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KPUC	31 Jan 1953	27 Jul 1953
KSM	25 Jan 1953	01 Aug 1953
NUC	31 Jan 1953	27 Jul 1953
	21 Feb 1968	13 Sep 1968
	15 Dec 1971	01 Jul 1972
NAVE	01 Jul 1973	30 Jun 1974
	01 Jul 1983	31 Dec 1984
	01 Jan 1989	31 Dec 1989
AFEM	24 Jun 1960	25 Jun 1960
	01 May 1963	05 May 1963
	18 Sep 1964	20 Sep 1964
	01 Oct 1964	09 Oct 1964
	28 Nov 1964	01 Jan 1965
	16 Jan 1965	17 Mar 1965
	04 Apr 1965	14 Apr 1965
	04 May 1968	07 May 1968
	29 Jun 1969	
	07 Jul 1969	13 Jul 1969
	24 Jul 1969	
	03 Sep 1969	
	13 Sep 1969	14 Sep 1969
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	15 May 1975	
	15 Feb 1988	09 Mar 1988
	17 Jan 1990	31 Jan 1990
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	17 May 1981	
	02 Oct 1981	
	23 Oct 1982	
MUC	20 Jan 1967	14 Jul 1967
	18 Apr 1969	08 Oct 1969
	02 May 1970	20 Oct 1970
	22 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	15 May 1975	
	13 Nov 1979	08 Feb 1980
	01 Oct 1983	31 Mar 1985
	15 Feb 1988	09 Mar 1988

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NEM	25 Nov 1979	28 Jan 1980
	25 May 1981	30 Sep 1981
	30 Apr 1986	27 Jun 1986
RVNGC	02 Dec 1965	
	11 Dec 1965	
	21 Dec 1965	
	24 Dec 1965	
	26 Dec 1965	30 Dec 1965
	01 Jan 1966	02 Jan 1966
	04 Jan 1966	14 Jan 1966
	04 Feb 1966	
	19 Feb 1966	
	23 Feb 1966	
	27 Mar 1966	28 Mar 1966
	30 Mar 1966	31 Mar 1966
	02 Apr 1966	
	11 Apr 1966	
	29 Apr 1966	
	20 Feb 1967	
	23 Feb 1967	
	16 Mar 1967	
	24 Mar 1967	25 Mar 1967
	07 May 1967	
	09 May 1967	
	12 May 1967	
	15 May 1967	21 May 1967
	29 May 1967	30 May 1967
	03 Jun 1967	
	16 Jun 1967	
	21 Feb 1968	25 Feb 1968
	27 Feb 1968	07 Mar 1968
	12 Mar 1968	18 Mar 1968
	22 Mar 1968	23 Mar 1968
	25 Mar 1968	
	06 Apr 1968	11 Apr 1968
	13 Apr 1968	14 Apr 1968
	17 Apr 1968	20 Apr 1968

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	13 May 1968	14 May 1968
	26 May 1968	27 May 1968
	04 Jul 1968	
	02 Aug 1968	18 Aug 1968
	27 Aug 1968	14 Sep 1968
	18 Apr 1969	17 May 1969
	01 Jun 1969	
	04 Jun 1969	09 Jun 1969
	11 Jun 1969	24 Jun 1969
	26 Jun 1969	
VNSM	02 Dec 1965	14 Jan 1966
	04 Feb 1966	23 Feb 1966
	16 Mar 1966	12 Apr 1966
	22 Apr 1966	14 May 1966
	23 May 1966	06 Jun 1966
	04 Feb 1967	26 Feb 1967
	15 Mar 1967	12 Apr 1967
	27 Apr 1967	05 Jun 1967
	11 Jun 1967	28 Jun 1967
	20 Feb 1968	25 Mar 1968
	06 Apr 1968	20 Apr 1968

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	09 May 1968	30 May 1968
	04 Jun 1968	05 Jun 1968
	13 Jun 1968	07 Jul 1968
	21 Jul 1968	18 Aug 1968
	27 Aug 1968	14 Sep 1968
	17 Apr 1969	18 May 1969
	03 Jun 1969	26 Jun 1969
	30 Jul 1969	31 Aug 1969
	23 Sep 1969	08 Oct 1969
	02 May 1970	26 May 1970
	01 Jun 1970	14 Jun 1970
	01 Jul 1970	29 Jul 1970
	17 Aug 1970	03 Sep 1970
	11 Sep 1970	12 Sep 1970
	26 Sep 1970	21 Oct 1970
	14 Dec 1971	
	31 Dec 1971	17 Jan 1972
	26 Jan 1972	17 Feb 1972
	01 Apr 1972	11 May 1972
	01 Jun 1972	11 Jun 1972
	21 Jun 1972	02 Jul 1972



A squadron F/A-18C Hornet flies over the burning oil fields of Kuwait, 1991.

VFA-97

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron NINETY SEVEN (VA-97) on 1 June 1967.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron NINETY SEVEN (VFA-97) on 24 January 1991. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-97 and VFA-97 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by the CNO on 6 March 1968. Colors for the hawk and shield insignia are as follows: background light blue outlined



The squadron's hawk and trident insignia.

in black; gold scroll outlined in black with black lettering; black hawk with gold markings, a gold beak, red tongue and eye; dark blue shield with a gold trident, both outlined in black; gray knight's helmet with a blue and gold crest and black markings.

Nickname: Warhawks, 1968-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

28 Jun 1968: The squadron conducted its first combat missions.

4 Feb–7 Mar 1971: The squadron embarked in *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) for the ship's transit around South America to her new home port on the west coast.

Dec 1971: Following the outbreak of war between India and Pakistan over East Pakistan (Bangladesh), *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) was ordered to leave Yankee Station for operations in the Indian Ocean. The carrier, with Air Wing 14 embarked, operated in the Bay of Bengal until the cessation of hostilities in the latter part of December.

Oct 1972: Squadron aircraft participated in Linebacker I operations, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam to interdict the flow of supplies into South Vietnam.

Dec 1972: The squadron participated in Linebacker II operations, an intensified version of Linebacker I.

Feb 1975: *Enterprise*, with CVW-14, provided disaster support for the island country of Mauritius following a tropical storm.

Apr 1975: The squadron participated in Operation Frequent Wind and provided air support for the evacuation of personnel from Saigon as it fell to the communists.

Feb 1977: During the crisis in Uganda and threats against Americans in that country, *Enterprise* operated off the coast of Kenya ready to evacuate Americans.

Dec 1979: *Coral Sea* (CV 43) operated off the coast of South Korea following the assassination of South Korea's President Park Chung-Hee in late October.

Apr 1980: *Coral Sea* was part of the task force involved in supporting the Iranian hostage rescue attempt.

May 1980: Following civil unrest in South Korea, *Coral Sea* operated off the coast of that country.

Aug 1983: Due to the unsettled conditions in Central America, *Coral Sea* operated off the coast of Nicaragua and also participated in surveillance for illegal drug traffic.

Aug 1986: The squadron participated in carrier tactical flight operations in the Bering Sea.

Jul 1988: During the Olympics in Seoul, Korea, *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70), with VA-97 embarked, operated off the coast of Korea.



A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs, 1975.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Lemoore	01 Jun 1967

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Richard P. Vaillancourt	28 Jul 1967
CDR Leroy M. Kraft	27 Feb 1969
CDR James E. Doolittle	19 Dec 1969
CDR Robert B. Arnold	16 Dec 1970
CDR Hugh F. Lynch	27 Dec 1971
CDR Robert C. Coffey	15 Dec 1972
CDR Bert D. Terry	29 Mar 1974
CDR Robert P. Nicolls	26 Jun 1975
CDR John F. Murray	17 Sep 1976
CDR Rex R. Arnett, Jr.	22 Nov 1977
CDR John M. McGrath	11 Jan 1979

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR David L. Carroll	29 Mar 1980
CDR Michael L. Bowman	06 Jun 1981
CDR Thomas L. McClelland	21 Sep 1982
CDR Norman L. Westerbuhr	03 Feb 1984
CDR Joseph W. Parker, Jr.	20 Sep 1985
CDR T. Barry McFarland	27 Mar 1987
CDR Michael F. Winkler	31 Jul 1988
CDR James T. Noland, Jr.	11 Jan 1990

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-7A	Oct 1967
A-7E	Jul 1970
F/A-18A	22 Feb 1991



A squadron A-7E Corsair II in flight with its low-visibility paint scheme, 1984.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
29 May 1968	31 Jan 1969	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Aug 1969	08 May 1970	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Jun 1971	12 Feb 1972	CVW-14	CVAN 65	A-7E	WestPac/ Vietnam/IO
12 Sep 1972	12 Jun 1973	CVW-14	CVAN 65	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
17 Sep 1974	20 May 1975	CVW-14	CVAN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO
30 Jul 1976	28 Mar 1977	CVW-14	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO
04 Apr 1978	30 Oct 1978	CVW-14	CVN 65	A-7E	WestPac/IO
13 Nov 1979	11 Jun 1980	CVW-14	CV 43	A-7E	WestPac/IO
20 Aug 1981	23 Mar 1982	CVW-14	CV 43	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 Mar 1983	12 Sep 1983	CVW-14	CV 43	A-7E	World Cruise
13 Oct 1984	24 May 1985	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	NorPac/ WestPac/IO
12 Aug 1986	05 Feb 1987	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	NorPac/ WestPac/IO
15 Jun 1988	14 Dec 1988	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	NorPac/ WestPac/IO
05 Sep 1989	09 Nov 1989	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	NorPac/WestPac
01 Feb 1990	31 Jul 1990	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	WestPac/IO

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-14	NK	15 Dec 1967*
CVW-15	NL	01 Nov 1983

* Before being assigned to CVW-14 the squadron was under the operational and administrative control of VA-122 during its training in the A-7A Corsair II.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1968	31 Dec 1969
	01 Jul 1974	31 Dec 1975
	01 Jan 1988	31 Dec 1988
MUC	07 Sep 1969	30 Apr 1970
	02 Jul 1971	03 Feb 1972
	22 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	07 Mar 1978	01 May 1980
	10 Nov 1984	07 May 1985
NUC	16 Jan 1987	02 Feb 1987
	03 Oct 1972	22 Feb 1973
AFEM	16 Oct 1969	24 Oct 1969
	16 Mar 1970	23 Mar 1970
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
VNSM	27 Jun 1968	22 Jul 1968
	02 Aug 1968	28 Aug 1968
	11 Sep 1968	09 Oct 1968
	28 Nov 1968	29 Nov 1968
	09 Dec 1968	21 Dec 1968
	01 Jan 1969	07 Jan 1969
	11 Sep 1969	03 Oct 1969

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	01 Nov 1969	23 Nov 1969
	07 Dec 1969	22 Dec 1969
	05 Jan 1970	30 Jan 1970
	12 Feb 1970	01 Mar 1970
	26 Mar 1970	17 Apr 1970
	14 Jul 1971	31 Jul 1971
	15 Aug 1971	04 Sep 1971
	12 Sep 1971	
	25 Sep 1971	26 Sep 1971
	02 Oct 1972	23 Oct 1972
	01 Nov 1972	11 Dec 1972
	18 Dec 1972	13 Jan 1973
	24 Jan 1973	23 Feb 1973
	01 Mar 1973	02 Mar 1973
	11 Mar 1973	28 Mar 1973



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet at NAS Lemoore, California, 1991.

VFA-105

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIVE (VA-105) on 1 November 1967.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIVE (VFA-105) on 17 December 1990. The second squadron to be assigned the designation VA-105 and the first to be designated VFA-105.



The squadron's insignia as it was first approved in 1968.



In 1984, a modification was approved for the squadron's insignia that added an upper scroll with the nickname Gunslingers. When the squadron was redesignated VFA, the designation in the lower scroll changed from ATKRON 105 to STRKFITRON 105.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by the CNO on 20 September 1968. Colors for the knight and holster insignia are as follows: a white background with a kelly green border; silver 45 caliber revolver with a black handle; black holster and gold knight; black ammunition belt with silver trim and gold bullets; kelly green scroll with white lettering.

On 31 December 1984 the CNO approved a modification to the squadron insignia. The modification included adding an upper scroll with the nickname Gunslingers and changes to the colors. The background color and lettering in the scrolls were changed to silver and the insignia was outlined in black.

Nickname: Gunslingers, 1968-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

4 Mar 1968: The squadron completed its training under VA-174 on the A-7A and became an operational unit of the Atlantic Fleet.

May and Jun 1969: Following the shootdown of a Navy EC-121 by the North Koreans in April, *Kitty Hawk* (CVA 63) was part of a continuing American presence being maintained off the coast of Korea.

Sep and Oct 1970: Following the hijacking of several airliners by Palestinians, the outbreak of serious fight-

ing in Jordan and the invasion of Jordan by Syria, *Saratoga* (CVA 60) with VA-105 embarked, operated in the eastern Mediterranean, prepared to support an evacuation of Americans from Jordan and to show support for the Jordanian government.

Jun-Oct 1971: As part of CVW-3, embarked in *Saratoga*, the squadron participated in the CV Concept Evaluation while deployed to the North Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea. The concept added antisubmarine warfare to the missions of the attack carriers. ASW aircraft were added to the carrier air wings and the carriers were redesignated from CVA to CV.

Jun-Oct 1972: The squadron participated in Linebacker I operations, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam to interdict the flow of supplies into South Vietnam.

18-29 Dec 1972: Squadron aircraft participated in Linebacker II operations against North Vietnam, an intensified version of Linebacker I.

Jan 1975: Following violent demonstrations in Cyprus, *Saratoga* operated off the coast of that island country, prepared to provide support for the possible evacuation of Americans.

Apr 1976: The squadron operated off the coast of Lebanon and participated in Operation Fluid Drive, preparations to support a possible evacuation of Americans from that country.

Jun 1982: Following the invasion of Lebanon by Israel on 6 June, *John F. Kennedy* (CV 67) operated off the coast of Lebanon, available to support an evacuation of Americans from that country.

Jul-Dec 1984: The squadron returned from a six-month deployment to MCAS Iwakuni in the western Pacific. It was assigned to MAG-12, 1st MAW. This was the first time a Navy squadron participated in the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program and the first Navy squadron since World War II to come under the command of a Marine Corps officer. While deployed with the Marines the squadron's major mission was close air support.



A squadron A-7E Corsair II in 1978.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Cecil Field	01 Nov 1967

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR R. C. Bos	01 Nov 1967
CDR R. K. Halverson	21 Jan 1969
CDR C. R. Bowling	30 Dec 1969
CDR J. C. Perkins	05 Oct 1970
CDR H. B. Chase	16 Jul 1971
CDR W. R. Zipperer	07 May 1972
CDR P. N. Puerling	23 May 1973
CDR R. F. Moreau	20 Jul 1974
CDR J. E. Carpenter	17 Nov 1975
CDR F. H. Saunders	07 Jan 1977
CDR B. M. Bennitt	27 Apr 1978
CDR R. M. Nutwell	03 Jul 1979

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR R. G. Pearson	06 Nov 1980
CDR D. V. Raebel	17 Feb 1981
CDR R. G. Brodsky	10 May 1982
CDR D. A. Weiss	17 Nov 1983
CDR G. G. Johnson	16 May 1985
CDR L. E. Osborn	06 Oct 1986
CDR K. T. Lewis	25 Mar 1988
CDR K. A. Richardson	27 Jul 1989
CDR Gene A. Smith	28 Mar 1991

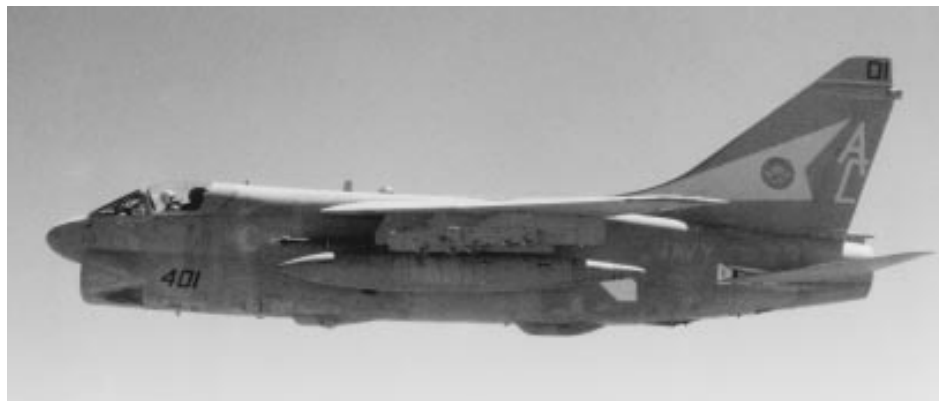
Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-7A	04 Mar 1968
A-7E	07 May 1973
F/A-18A	27 Dec 1990
F/A-18C	11 Mar 1991

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
30 Dec 1968	04 Sep 1969	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
17 Jun 1970	09 Nov 1970	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-7A	Med
07 Jun 1971	28 Oct 1971	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-7A	NorLant/Med
11 Apr 1972	13 Feb 1973	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
27 Sep 1974	19 Mar 1975	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
06 Jan 1976	28 Jul 1976	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
11 Jul 1977	23 Dec 1977	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
03 Oct 1978	05 Apr 1979	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
10 Mar 1980	27 Aug 1980	CVW-3	CV 60	A-7E	Med
04 Jan 1982	14 Jul 1982	CVW-3	CV 67	A-7E	Med/IO
01 Mar 1983	29 Oct 1983	CVW-15	CVN 70	A-7E	World Cruise
02 Jun 1984	17 Dec 1984	MAG-12	*	A-7E	WestPac
02 Jun 1986	10 Nov 1986	CVW-6	CV 59	A-7E	Med
28 Aug 1987	09 Oct 1987	CVW-6	CV 59	A-7E	NorLant
25 Apr 1988	07 Oct 1988	CVW-6	CV 59	A-7E	Med/IO/NorLant
04 Nov 1989	12 Apr 1990	CVW-6	CV 59	A-7E	Med

* The squadron deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, as part of Marine Aircraft Group 12. While deployed to WestPac the squadron also operated from NAF Kadena, Okinawa; NAS Cubi Point, Philippines and stations in Korea.



A squadron A-7E Corsair II in flight with low-visibility paint scheme, 1984.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
VA-174*		01 Nov 1967
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		01 Mar 1968
CVW-11	NH	1968†
COMFAIRJACKSON-VILLE		Sep
CVW-3	AC	1970‡
CVW-15	NL	01 Oct 1982
COMLATWING ONE		Oct 1983
MAG-12, 1st MAW§	AC	08 Jun 1984
COMLATWING ONE		Dec 1984
CVW-6	AE	01 Apr 1985
COMLATWING ONE		01 Oct 1990
CVW-3	AC	01 Sep 1991

* The squadron was assigned to VA-174 during training in the new A-7A Corsair II.

† The squadron was assigned to CVW-11 sometime after June 1968 and prior to its deployment in December 1968. Squadron and air wing records do not indicate the day or month.

‡ The squadron was assigned to CVW-3 sometime in the early part of 1970.

§ VA-105 was assigned to MAG-12, 1st MAW during its shorebased deployment to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan. While deployed with MAG-12 the squadron used the tail code AC on its aircraft.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1968	31 Dec 1969
	01 Jul 1974	30 Jun 1975
	01 Oct 1976	30 Sep 1977
MUC	01 Jan 1984	31 Dec 1984
	17 Sep 1970	18 Oct 1970
	01 Oct 1979	15 Nov 1980
AFEM	1969	15 May 1969
NUC	25 May 1969	27 May 1969
	05 Jun 1969	
	07 Jun 1969	15 Jun 1969
	25 Jul 1969	
	15 Jan 1969	27 Aug 1969
	18 May 1972	08 Jan 1973
	01 Mar 1984	14 Dec 1984
	27 Jan 1969	01 Mar 1969
	12 Mar 1969	05 Apr 1969
	17 Apr 1969	11 May 1969
VNSM	28 Jun 1969	15 Jul 1969
	27 Jul 1969	17 Aug 1969
	06 May 1972	07 May 1972
	17 May 1972	22 Jun 1972
	30 Jun 1972	16 Jul 1972
	27 Jul 1972	23 Aug 1972
	02 Sep 1972	19 Sep 1972
	29 Sep 1972	21 Oct 1972
	25 Oct 1972	26 Oct 1972
	03 Nov 1972	08 Dec 1972
	18 Dec 1972	31 Dec 1972



A squadron F/A-18C Hornet at NAS Fallon, Nevada, March 1992 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

VFA-106

Lineage

Established as Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIX (VFA-106) on 27 April 1984. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-106 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 26 May 1982. The insignia approved for VFA-106 had been used by VA-106 prior to its disestablishment on 7 November 1969. Colors for the VFA-106 insignia are: a gold background outlined in red; a blue shield with a white arrow and Roman helmet, the upper part of the helmet is red; a gold stylized wing is on the upper right hand corner of the shield; white aircraft with blue markings; and blue scrolls with white lettering.



The Gladiators insignia used by the squadron.

Nickname: Gladiators, 1984-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

27 Apr 1984: The squadron's mission is the training of F/A-18 replacement pilots and maintenance personnel for east coast F/A-18 fleet squadrons.

7 Oct 1985: The first Replacement Pilot Class arrives at VFA-106 to begin training on the F/A-18 Hornet.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Cecil Field	27 Apr 1984

Commanding Officers

<i>Date Assumed Command</i>	
27 Apr 1984	CDR D. J. L'Herault
13 Dec 1985	CDR J. W. Peterson
13 Feb 1987	CDR L. G. Kappel
03 Jun 1988	CDR W. O. King, Jr.
12 Jun 1989	CDR W. N. Deaver, Jr.
19 Mar 1991	CDR J. Barry Waddell

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Date Type First Received</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>
09 Feb 1985	F/A-18A
22 Mar 1985	TF/A-18A
May 1986	F/A-18B
Oct 1987	F/A-18C
Dec 1987	F/A-18D



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet in flight, May 1987 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMLATWING		
ONE	AD	27 Apr 1984

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	01 May 1985	30 Apr 1986
MUC	01 May 1986	31 Oct 1987
	01 Nov 1987	31 Dec 1989



A squadron TF/A-18A Hornet at NAS Fallon, Nevada, March 1986 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

VFA-113

Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN (VF-113) on 15 July 1948.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN (VA-113) in March 1956.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTEEN (VFA-113) on 25 March 1983. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-113 and VFA-113 designation.



This beehive and hornet insignia was adopted by the squadron in 1949.



When the squadron was redesignated VFA, the insignia was modified by adding a scroll with the squadron designation; it was approved by CNO in 1983.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 15 April 1949. Colors for the insignia are: red beehive with white markings and outlined in yellow; with yellow lettering; black and yellow bumble bee with red legs and white wings with black markings.

CNO approved a modification to the insignia on 4 February 1985. The beehive insignia was placed inside a circle with a blue background outlined in yellow; the scroll is red, outlined in black and yellow, with yellow lettering; the other colors of the insignia remained the same.

Nickname: Stingers, 1949 to present.

Chronology of Significant Events

5 Aug 1950: The squadron flew its first combat mission, striking land and sea targets southeast of Kunsan, Korea, and Mokpo harbor.

12-14 Sep 1950: Squadron aircraft flew combat sorties in and around Inchon, Korea, in preparation for the landings at Wolmi Island.

15 Sep 1950: The squadron participated in offensive sorties during the landings at Inchon, striking targets on the roads between Inchon and Seoul.

2 & 5 Nov 1950: Squadron aircraft participated in Operation Pinwheel, the docking and departing of the

carrier from the pier using aircraft engine power to move the ship.

9-10 & 12 Nov 1950: During strikes by the squadron's F4U-4Bs on bridges crossing the Yalu River between Sinuiju and Antung, they were attacked by MiG-15s. No damage was inflicted on the squadron's aircraft and no apparent damage was done to the MiG-15s.

22-23 Dec 1950: Two squadron aircraft flew spotting missions for *Saint Paul* (CA 73) on 22 December and for *Missouri* (BB 63) on 23 December during shore bombardment against villages and troop concentrations near the front line.

23 Jun 1952: Squadron aircraft, along with planes from 3 other air groups and the 5th Air Force, participated in the first coordinated strikes against North Korean hydroelectric power plants. This was the first time that enemy power plants had been so heavily targeted. It also marked the first time that four carriers were on line off the coast of Korea since the fall of 1950.

8-13 Feb 1955: Squadron aircraft were on station and available for air support during the evacuation of personnel from the Tachen Islands due to the bombardment of the islands by the People's Republic of China.

Aug-Sep 1958: The squadron was part of a task force that provided support to the Republic of China during the shelling of the Quemoy Island group by the Chinese Communists.

11 Aug-1 Nov 1961: The squadron was embarked in *Kitty Hawk* (CVA 63) for her transit, via Cape Horn, from Norfolk to her new home port at San Diego.

Jun 1964: Squadron aircraft participated in Yankee Team operations, including inflight refueling for RF-8A and RF-101 aircraft and search and rescue missions over South Vietnam and Laos.

Nov 1964-Oct 1965: The squadron provided a detachment of personnel and aircraft for use as fighter



A squadron F4U-4 Corsair catching the wire aboard Philippine Sea (CV 47) during their 1951-1952 combat deployment to Korea.

protection for the Antisubmarine Carrier Air Group embarked in *Bennington* (CVS 20).

Dec 1965: During the squadron's first line-period on Yankee Station, it participated in three major strikes against important North Vietnamese targets, including the Hai Phong Bridge, Uong Bi Thermal Power Plant and the Hai Duong Bridge.

Jan–Feb 1968: While embarked in *Enterprise* (CVAN 65) and enroute to Yankee Station, the carrier was ordered to the Sea of Japan for operations following the seizure of the *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by the North Koreans.

Dec 1972: The squadron participated in Linebacker II Operations, heavy air strikes against targets primarily around Hanoi and Haiphong.

Jul 1976: Following the Israeli raid on Entebbe and the threatened military operations against Kenya by Uganda, the *Ranger* (CV 61), with VA-113 embarked, was ordered to transit from the South China Sea to the western Indian Ocean and operate off the coast of Kenya.

15 Oct 1980–22 Mar 1981: Under the Swing Wing Concept to reduce the deck multiple on *Ranger*, VA-113 was off loaded at NAS Cubi Point and operated as a CVW-2 Detachment from the air station. While temporarily shore based the squadron participated in numerous joint and interservice exercises.

Mar–Oct 1983: The squadron underwent transition training with VFA-125, becoming the first Navy fleet operational squadron assigned the F/A-18 Hornet.

Feb–Aug 1985: VFA-113, along with VFA-25, made the first deployment with the new F/A-18 Hornet. The squadrons deployed aboard *Constellation* (CV 64) and operated in the western Pacific and Indian Ocean.

Jul 1987: Squadron aircraft, along with other units of CVW-14, conducted surveillance in the strategic Strait of Hormuz and provided air cover for the first five Earnest Will operations, the escort of reflagged Kuwaiti oil tankers through the Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf.

2 Aug 1990: *Independence* (CV 62), with VFA-113 embarked, was ordered to the Gulf of Oman following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Aug 1990: The squadron's F/A-18s flew mixed combat air patrol missions with F-14s in the Persian Gulf up to 28 degrees north latitude in support of Operation Desert Shield, the build up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait.

3–4 Oct 1990: VFA-113 conducted flight operations from *Independence* while she operated in the Persian Gulf. This was the first time a carrier had operated in the Persian Gulf since 1974.



Squadron F9F-5 Panthers over Kearsarge (CVA 33) during their 1953–1954 deployment to Korea and WestPac.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS San Diego	15 Jul 1948
NAS Miramar	15 Sep 1952
NAS Lemoore	12 Dec 1961

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Robert S. Merritt	15 Jul 1948
LCDR Roy M. Voris	09 Jun 1949
LCDR John T. O'Neill	20 Jan 1950
CDR Harold P. Ady, Jr.	30 Jun 1951
LCDR John R. Strane	24 Oct 1951
LCDR J. H. Tripp	29 Sep 1952
CDR Charles C. Sanders	Aug 1954
CDR Harold W. Davis	Apr 1955
CDR Richard L. Cormier	Dec 1956
CDR H. S. Matthews, Jr.	26 Nov 1958
CDR Robert E. Gallatin	16 Oct 1959
CDR L. A. Tomkins	17 Feb 1961
CDR G. A. White, Jr.	30 Mar 1962
CDR H. A. Borgerding	01 Mar 1963
CDR G. G. Zimmerman	21 Feb 1964
CDR Henry M. Dibble	02 Apr 1965
CDR J. Abbott (acting)	11 Apr 1966
CDR J. A. Burnett (acting)	04 May 1966
CDR R. E. Bennett	30 May 1966
CDR R. J. Thomas	16 Jul 1967
CDR E. J. Jacobs	23 Jul 1968
CDR J. E. Newton	03 Sep 1969
CDR J. Brent Streit	17 Jul 1970
CDR Weston H. Byng	26 Mar 1971
CDR Richard L. Grant	28 Apr 1972

Commanding Officers—Continued

Aircraft Assignment

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
CDR D. Bruce Cargill	16 Apr 1973	F8F-1	15 Jul 1948
CDR Judson H. Springer	10 Dec 1973	F8F-2	28 Mar 1949
CDR M. D. Munsinger	28 Mar 1975	F4U-4B	09 Mar 1950
CDR H. D. Lesesne	17 May 1976	F9F-5	Oct 1952
CDR Michael J. Webber	26 Aug 1977	F9F-2	Feb 1954
CDR John P. Park	22 Nov 1978	F9F-8	May 1955
CDR T. D. Hill, Jr.	21 Feb 1980	F9F-8B	Apr 1956
CDR W. C. Trafton	10 Jun 1981	A4D-1	29 Apr 1957
CDR William W. Pickavance, Jr.	01 Aug 1982	A4D-2	08 Sep 1958
CDR C. A. Langbehn	29 Feb 1984	A4D-2N/A-4C*	29 Mar 1961
CDR Robert G. Sprigg	05 Sep 1985	A-4F	Oct 1967
CDR David V. Park	24 Jan 1987	A-7B	10 Dec 1968
CDR John V. Chenevey	28 Feb 1988	A-7E	Apr 1970
CDR Gary L. Koger	07 Jul 1989	F/A-18A	24 Aug 1983
CDR Danny L. Clarkson	24 Jan 1991	F/A-18C	09 Jun 1989

* The A4D-2N designation was changed to A-4C in 1962.



A squadron A4D-1 (A-4) Skyhawk on Hancock's (CVA 19) flight deck, November 1957.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
05 Jul 1950	07 Apr 1951	CVG-11	CV 47/45*	F4U-4B	WestPac/Korea
31 Dec 1951	08 Aug 1952	CVG-11	CV 47	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
01 Jul 1953	18 Jan 1954	CVG-11	CVA 33	F9F-5	WestPac/Korea
07 Oct 1954	12 May 1955	CVG-11	CVA 33	F9F-2	WestPac
16 Jul 1956	26 Jan 1957	CVG-11	CVA 9	F9F-8B	WestPac
08 Mar 1958	21 Nov 1958	CVG-11	CVA 38	A4D-1	WestPac
09 Mar 1959	03 Oct 1959	CVG-11	CVA 38	A4D-2	WestPac
16 Jul 1960	18 Mar 1961	CVG-11	CVA 19	A4D-2	WestPac
13 Sep 1962	02 Apr 1963	CVG-11	CVA 63	A4D-2N	WestPac
17 Oct 1963	20 Jul 1964	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-4C	WestPac
19 Oct 1965	13 Jun 1966	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
19 Nov 1966	06 Jul 1967	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
03 Jan 1968	18 Jul 1968	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
09 Jul 1969	22 Jan 1970	CVW-3	CVA 60	A-7B	Med
27 Oct 1970	17 Jun 1971	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
16 Nov 1972	23 Jun 1973	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
07 May 1974	18 Oct 1974	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7E	WestPac
30 Jan 1976	07 Sep 1976	CVW-2	CV 61	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 Feb 1979	22 Sep 1979	CVW-2	CV 61	A-7E	WestPac
10 Sep 1980	05 May 1981	CVW-2	CV 61	A-7E	WestPac/IO
07 Apr 1982	19 Oct 1982	CVW-2	CV 61	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 Feb 1985	24 Aug 1985	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
04 Sep 1986	20 Oct 1986	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A	NorPac
11 Apr 1987	13 Oct 1987	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
01 Dec 1988	01 Jun 1989	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
16 Sep 1989	19 Oct 1989	CVW-14	CV 64	F/A-18A/C	NorPac
23 Jun 1990	20 Dec 1990	CVW-14	CV 62	F/A-18C	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf

* CVG-11 deployed to Korea embarked in *Philippine Sea* (CV 47) and on 29 March 1951 transferred to *Valley Forge* (CV 45) and returned to the States embarked in *Valley Forge*.



*A formation of
squadron A-7E
Corsair IIs in 1971.*

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVAG-11/CVG-11/-		
CVW-11*	V/NH†	15 Jul 1948
CVW-9	NG	1966
COMFAIRALAMEDA		Aug 1968
CVW-3	AC	1969
CVW-2	NE	01 Jun 1970
COMLATWING-		
PAC/VFA-125		1983
CVW-14	NK	Feb 1984

* CVAG-11 was redesignated CVG-11 on 1 September 1948. CVG-11 was redesignated CVW-11 when Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

† The tail code was changed from V to NH in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet launching a Sparrow missile, 1984.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NUC	04 Aug 1950	29 Mar 1951
	26 Dec 1965	14 May 1966
	18 Dec 1966	20 Jun 1967
	22 Feb 1968	26 Jun 1968
KSM	02 Aug 1990	01 Nov 1990
	01 Aug 1950	29 Mar 1951
KPUC	20 Jan 1952	12 Jul 1952
	01 Aug 1950	29 Mar 1951
NAVE	20 Jan 1952	12 Jul 1952
	01 Jul 1957	30 Jun 1958
	01 Jul 1967	30 Jun 1968
MUC	01 Jan 1985	30 Jun 1986
	18 Nov 1970	10 Jun 1971
	27 Mar 1983	27 Aug 1985
AFEM	01 Jan 1984	24 Aug 1985
	30 Aug 1958	01 Sep 1958
	03 Sep 1958	27 Sep 1958
	15 Oct 1958	16 Oct 1958
	21 Oct 1958	29 Oct 1958
	15 Nov 1962	16 Nov 1962
	20 Dec 1962	
	19 May 1964	10 Jun 1964
SASM	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	05 Aug 1990	04 Nov 1990
VNSM	25 Nov 1965	23 Dec 1965
	15 Jan 1966	04 Feb 1966
	18 Feb 1966	14 Mar 1966
	01 Apr 1966	29 Apr 1966
	08 May 1966	23 May 1966
	17 Dec 1966	17 Jan 1967
	31 Jan 1967	03 Mar 1967
	20 Mar 1967	18 Apr 1967
	28 Apr 1967	28 May 1967
	04 Jun 1967	21 Jun 1967

Unit Awards Received—continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	21 Feb 1968	17 Mar 1968
	26 Mar 1968	24 Apr 1968
	30 Apr 1968	21 May 1968
	30 May 1968	27 Jun 1968
	18 Nov 1970	18 Dec 1970
	27 Dec 1970	13 Jan 1971
	02 Feb 1971	17 Mar 1971
	31 Mar 1971	18 Apr 1971
	25 Apr 1971	18 May 1971
	09 Dec 1972	03 Jan 1973
RVNGC	14 Jan 1973	30 Jan 1973
	01 Feb 1973	06 Feb 1973
	22 Dec 1966	
	04 Jan 1967	
	07 Jan 1967	09 Jan 1967
	12 Jan 1967	13 Jan 1967
	16 Jan 1967	
	20 Feb 1967	
	21 Feb 1967	
	23 Feb 1967	
	25 Feb 1967	
	01 Mar 1967	
	23 Mar 1967	
	27 Mar 1967	
	14 Apr 1967	15 Apr 1967
	29 Apr 1967	
	10 Jun 1967	
	22 Feb 1968	24 Feb 1968
	26 Feb 1968	03 Mar 1968
	05 Mar 1968	08 Mar 1968
	12 Mar 1968	
	14 Mar 1968	
	16 Mar 1968	
	29 Mar 1968	30 Mar 1968

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	01 Apr 1968	05 Apr 1968
	07 Apr 1968	10 Apr 1968
	12 Apr 1968	
	14 Apr 1968	
	16 Apr 1968	20 Apr 1968
	22 Apr 1968	23 Apr 1968
	02 May 1968	
	13 May 1968	
	01 Jun 1968	02 Jun 1968
	04 Jun 1968	

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	15 Jun 1968	
HSM	25 May 1976	01 Jun 1976
	20 Mar 1981	
NEM	30 Oct 1980	12 Mar 1981
	27 Jun 1987	23 Jul 1987
VA-113 Det Q		
AFEM	19 May 1965	20 May 1965
	25 May 1965	26 May 1965
VNSM	26 Jul 1965	17 Aug 1965
	27 Aug 1965	10 Sep 1965



A squadron F/A-18C Hornet in flight, circa 1990.

VFA-125

Lineage

Established as Fighter Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE (VFA-125) on 13 November 1980.

The Fighter Attack designation was changed to Strike Fighter on 25 March 1983. However, the VFA acronym remained the same. It is the first squadron to be assigned the VFA-125 designation.



The squadron's first insignia was approved in 1980 using the old design from VA-125.



A modification to the squadron's insignia was approved in 1991, adding two horizontal lines and changing the designation in the scroll.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 3 October 1980. The squadron adopted the insignia that had been used by VA-125. Colors for the torch insignia are: a black background outlined in gray; yellow scroll with black lettering and a gray outline; white torch with gray outlines; yellow flame outlined in gray followed by red, outlined in gray; gray electron rings.

CNO approved a modification to the squadron's insignia on 29 January 1991. The gray colors were changed to a light blue and a red and dark blue horizontal strip was added to the lower part of the insignia.

Nickname: Rough Raiders, 1980-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

13 Nov 1980: The squadron was established with a mission of training fighter and attack pilots to fly the F/A-18 Hornet. It was also tasked with training Navy and Marine Corps maintenance personnel. The commanding officer was a naval officer and the executive officer a Marine Corps officer.

Jun 1981: Squadron's officers, along with the F/A-18, participated in the Paris Air Show.

Aug 1982: The squadron achieved a "Ready for Training" status and VMFA-314 became the first

squadron to begin transition training in the F/A-18.

Sep 1982: The squadron's first carrier qualification detachment began operations aboard *Constellation* (CV 64).

Mar 1983: Training began for the first Navy squadron to transition to the F/A-18.



Squadron F/A-18 Hornets on the flight line at NAS Lemoore, California.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Lemoore	13 Nov 1980

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR James W. Partington	13 Nov 1980
CDR Jerry D. Palmer	24 Jun 1982
CDR John A. Lockard	14 Oct 1983
CDR Dennis V. McGinn	14 Dec 1984
CDR W. W. Pickavance, Jr.	13 Mar 1986
CDR John C. Leslie, Jr.	15 Jun 1987
CDR Joseph W. Parker, Jr.	02 Sep 1988
CDR Alan R. Gorthy, Jr.	01 Dec 1989
CDR David C. Kendall	08 Mar 1991

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F/A-18A	19 Feb 1981
TF/A-18A	10 Mar 1981
A-7E	12 Mar 1981
O-2A	Apr 1986
F/A-18B	May 1986
F/A-18D	Jul 1988
F/A-18C	1988
T-34C	1990

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMLATWINGPAC	NJ	13 Nov 1980

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
MUC	13 Nov 1980 28 Mar 1983



A formation of squadron F/A-18 Hornets, including the two-seat versions (Courtesy Duane Kasulka Collection).

VFA-127

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN (VA-127) on 15 June 1962.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN (VFA-127) on 1 March 1987. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-127 and VFA-127 designations.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 4 February 1963. Colors for the bat and torch



The bat and torch design was the first insignia approved for use by the squadron.

insignia were: white and black background outlined in red; black and white bat; white torch outlined in black with a yellow and red flame, also outlined in black; white scroll outlined in black with black lettering.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 4 June 1975. Colors for the globe and serpent design were: a light blue background outlined in dark blue; blue and green globe with black latitude and longitude lines; yellow lightning bolts outlined in black and red; black and yellow serpent with red tongue and fangs; the open book was white with yellow and black markings; black and white aircraft carrier; black plane with dark blue contrail; red and black international date line; light blue scroll outlined in dark blue with black lettering.

On 17 December 1975 CNO approved the squadron's request to return to its original bat and torch insignia.



In June 1975, CNO approved the use of the globe and serpent insignia for the squadron. However, this design was used only for the remainder of 1975 and then the squadron requested approval to revert back to its first design, the bat and torch. This request was approved by CNO in December 1975.



The next insignia approved and used by the squadron was the red star design.



In 1984, a modification was made to the red star insignia adding an upper scroll and wording that identified the mission of the squadron. When the squadron was redesignated VFA in 1987, the Attack Squadron 127 designation in the lower scroll changed to Strike Fighter Squadron 127.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 10 August 1980. Colors for the red star insignia were: a gray background outlined in black, red and black lines; a red star outlined in white and red; gray aircraft with a black canopy; yellow compass markings; gray scroll outlined in black with black lettering.

A modification to the red star insignia was approved by CNO on 25 October 1984. This

modification added an upper scroll with Pacific Fleet Adversary in black lettering.

Nickname: Royal Blues, 1960s–1980.

Cylons, 1981–present.

Chronology of Significant Events

24 Jul 1961–15 Jun 1962: Prior to being established as VA-127, the unit operated as VA-126 Det Alfa with a mission to provide basic and refresher all-weather jet instrument and transition training for pilots on the west coast.

15 Jun 1962: The squadron's primary mission was to provide advanced all-weather jet instrument training for fleet replacement pilots and refresher training for light jet attack pilots. A secondary mission included jet transition and refresher training.

1 Jun 1970: The squadron's mission was modified when it was designated as the only A-4 Replacement Air Wing squadron in the Navy. The primary mission included fleet replacement pilot training, basic and refresher all weather jet instrument training and replacement enlisted training in both the TA-4 and A-4 model aircraft, plus the ancillary mission of providing jet transition training. The flight syllabus included weapons delivery (conventional and nuclear), airborne electronic countermeasures, field mirror landing practice, low level navigation, inflight aerial refueling, defensive tactics and carrier qualifications (day and night).

Apr 1971: The squadron expanded its training on the A-4 to include personnel from the Argentine Navy, previously only U.S. naval aviators had been trained by the squadron.

1973: The squadron continued its program of pro-

viding training on the A-4 to foreign pilots. Beginning in 1973 pilot training for the Singapore Air Defense Command was conducted by VA-127.

Jul 1975: The squadron's primary mission was changed. Fleet Replacement Pilot training and the Fleet Replacement Aviation Maintenance Program were discontinued. The squadron's new missions included basic refresher all weather jet instrument training, air combat maneuvering adversary training, foreign pilot training and jet transition/refresher training. In November 1975 CNO officially designated VA-127 with the mission of air combat maneuvering (ACM) adversary training.

1 Oct 1983: The squadron's instrument training mission was dropped and the primary mission became the Adversary Role (Dissimilar Air Combat Maneuvering).



A squadron F9F-8T (TF-9J) Cougar at NAS Lemoore, California, July 1963 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Lemoore	15 Jun 1962
NAS Fallon	01 Oct 1987

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Emory G. Tiffany	15 Jun 1962
CDR Simpson Evans, Jr.	19 Oct 1962
CDR William F. McCullough	13 Sep 1963
CDR J. R. Harper	25 Sep 1964
CDR W. S. Brown	17 Sep 1965
CDR J. C. Duck	02 Sep 1966
CDR Edward W. V. Webster	05 May 1967
CDR Timothy J. Perry	12 Jul 1968
CDR Loren M. Dierdorff	13 Jun 1969
CDR Lawrence A. Sharpe	05 Jun 1970
CDR George E. Sheldon, Jr.	14 May 1971
CDR Thomas W. Poore	12 May 1972
CDR Cecil Richard Tulley	31 May 1973
CDR Ronald M. Shields	Aug 1974
CDR Arvin R. Chauncey	10 Oct 1975
CDR Ronald L. Waters	21 Dec 1976
CDR Gary L. Beck	08 Mar 1978
CDR John A. McAuley, Jr.	03 Aug 1979
CDR Donald L. Dill	26 Nov 1980
CDR Wiley P. DeCarli	26 Feb 1982
CDR Paul J. Valovich	26 May 1983
CDR Michael J. Sullivan	30 Nov 1984
CDR David R. Olson	30 May 1986
CDR Ridgeway W. Corbin II	20 Nov 1987
CDR Alan R. Gorthy, Jr.	05 Dec 1988
CDR Gary A. Barrett	20 Oct 1989
CDR Vance L. Toalson	11 Jan 1991

Two squadron TA-4F Skyhawks in flight, 1967.



Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F9F-8T/TF-9J*	15 Jun 1962
TA-4F	03 Aug 1966
A-4F	Mar 1970
A-4E	Apr 1970
TA-4J	15 Apr 1971
T-38B	Sep 1987

Aircraft Assignment—Continued

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
QT-38A	Sep 1987
F-5E	Sep 1987
F-5F	Sep 1987
F/A-18A	Mar 1992

* The F9F-8T designation was changed to TF-9J in 1962.



Three squadron TA-4J Skyhawks fly in formation with one of the squadron's A-4F Skyhawks, 1983.



A squadron F-5E Tiger II at NAS Fallon, Nevada, July 1989 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
RCVG-12/RCVW-12*	NJ†	15 Jun 1962
COMFAIRLEMOORE/ COMLATWINGPAC/ COMSTRKFIGHT- WINGPAC‡		01 Jun 1970

* Replacement Air Groups were redesignated Combat Readiness Air Groups on 1 April 1963. They were popularly known by the short titles RAG and CRAG in the respective periods, but the designation throughout was RCVG. On 20 December 1963, when Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were changed to Carrier Air Wings (CVW) the RCVG designation was changed to RCVW.

† RCVW-12 was disestablished on 1 June 1970. However, VA-127, and the other squadrons assigned to RCVW-12, continued to use the NJ tail code.

‡ COMFAIRLEMOORE was redesignated COMLATWINGPAC on 30 June 1973 and in 1991 redesignated COMSTRKFIGHTWINGPAC.



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet at NAS Fallon, Nevada, 1992 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

VFA-131

Lineage

Established as Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY ONE (VFA-131) on 3 October 1983.

The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-131 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 26 January 1984. Colors for the insignia are: a blue background outlined in white and blue; white stars and aircraft; red, white and blue contrail outlined in white; white wildcat head with black markings, black nose, red eye and mouth; blue scroll with white lettering.



The squadron's Wildcat insignia.

Nickname: Wildcats, 1984-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

Mar 1986: During Freedom of Navigation exercises in the Gulf of Sidra, the squadron's aircraft flew Combat Air Patrols in support of the exercise, including the period of 24 and 25 March following a Libyan firing of an SA-5 missile on 24 March against an American aircraft operating in international waters.

14–15 Apr 1986: Squadron aircraft, along with other units of CVW-13 and A-7s from CVW-1, provided air-to-surface Shrike and Harm missile strikes against Libyan surface-to-air missile sites at Benghazi. This was the first use of the F/A-18 in combat.

15 Aug–8 Oct 1988: Squadron was embarked in *Independence* (CV 62) during the carrier's transit, via Cape Horn, from Norfolk to its new home port at San Diego.

Aug 1990: Embarked in *Eisenhower* (CVN 69), the squadron's F/A-18s flew missions in the Red Sea in support of Operation Desert Shield, the build-up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait. The *Eisenhower* task force was the first U.S. force in position to deter Iraqi incursion into Saudi Arabia.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Lemoore	03 Oct 1983
NAS Cecil Field	15 Apr 1985*

*This is the official transfer date, however, the squadron had aircraft and personnel onboard the air station in February 1985.

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR James O. Ellis, Jr.	03 Oct 1983
CDR Charles W. Moore, Jr.	02 Dec 1985
CDR Dean L. Steele	05 Jun 1987
CDR Jerry B. Singleton	01 Dec 1988
CDR Robert C. Rubel	20 Jun 1990
CDR R. E. Hoppock	18 Sep 1991

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F/A-18A	May 1984
F/A-18C	05 Nov 1990



A squadron F/A-18C Hornet on the deck of George Washington (CVN 73), September 1993.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
02 Oct 1985	19 May 1986	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med
29 Sep 1987	28 Mar 1988	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med
08 Mar 1990	12 Sep 1990	CVW-7	CVN 69	F/A-18A	Med/Red Sea

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
COMLATWINGPAC		03 Oct 1983
CVW-13	AK	01 Mar 1984
CVW-17	AA	05 May 1988
CVW-7	AG	17 Oct 1988

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NEM	20 Jan 1986	05 May 1986
NAVE	01 Jan 1986	31 Dec 1986
NUC	02 Oct 1985	19 May 1986
	23 Mar 1986	17 Apr 1986
MUC	08 Mar 1990	12 Sep 1990
AFEM	12 Apr 1986	17 Apr 1986
SASM	08 Aug 1990	24 Aug 1990



A formation of squadron F/A-18A Hornets, 1986.

VFA-132

Lineage

Established as Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY TWO (VFA-132) on 3 January 1984.

Disestablished on 1 June 1992. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-132 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 2 May 1985. Colors for the privateer insignia were: a



The squadron's one and only insignia.

light blue background outlined in yellow; the privateer's coat was red with yellow trim; black boots; black hat with yellow trim; white trousers; the man's face and hands were white and his mustache and eye patch were black; white rockets and green bombs, both outlined in black; yellow contrails from the rockets and bombs; white cutlass

outlined in black with a yellow handle; dark blue scrolls with yellow lettering.

Nickname: Privateers, 1984–1992.

Chronology of Significant Events

Mar 1986: During Freedom of Navigation exercises in the Gulf of Sidra, the squadron's aircraft flew Combat Air Patrols in support of the exercise, including the period of 24 and 25 March following a 24 March Libyan firing of an SA-5 missile against an American aircraft operating in international waters.

14–15 Apr 1986: Squadron aircraft, along with other

units of CVW-13 and A-7s from CVW-1, provided air-to-surface Shrike and Harm missile strikes against Libyan surface-to-air missile sites at Benghazi. This was the first use of the F/A-18 in combat.

Oct 1987–Apr 1988: The squadron deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, and was assigned to Marine Air Group 15. While deployed to Japan, the squadron operated detachments at NAS Cubi Point, Tsuiki AB, Clark AB, Yechon AB, Misawa AB and Kadena AB.

Aug–Sep 1989: *Coral Sea* (CV 43), with VFA-132 embarked, operated off the coast of Lebanon following the Israeli capture of Sheik Obeid and the reported killing of Lieutenant Colonel William R. Higgins, USMC. In early September the squadron provided air cover for the CH-53 helos used to evacuate personnel from the U.S. embassy in Beirut.

Jun–Sep 1991: CVW-6 squadrons participated in Operation Provide Comfort, flying missions over northern Iraq in support of the Kurdish relief effort.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Lemoore	03 Jan 1984
NAS Cecil Field	Feb 1985

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Robert E. Lakari	10 Jan 1984
CDR John B. Nathman	22 Apr 1985
CDR Scott C. Ronnie	1986
CDR John T. Morris	01 Oct 1987
CDR Robert C. Stephens	05 May 1989
CDR J. L. Fleming	13 Sep 1990

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F/A-18A	21 Jun 1984



Two squadron F/A-18A Hornets preparing to launch from *Coral Sea* (CV 43), January 1986.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
02 Oct 1985	19 May 1986	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med
05 Oct 1987	28 Apr 1988	MAG-15	MCAS Iwakuni	F/A-18A	Japan/WestPac
31 May 1989	30 Sep 1989	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med
30 May 1991	22 Dec 1991	CVW-6	CV 59	F/A-18A	Med

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-13	AK	01 Mar 1984
MAG-15		Oct 1987
CVW-13	AK	May 1988
CVW-6	AE	01 Oct 1990

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NEM	20 Jan 1986	05 May 1986
NUC	02 Oct 1985	19 May 1986
	23 Mar 1986	17 Apr 1986
MUC	30 Mar 1988	30 Sep 1989
AFEM	12 Apr 1986	17 Apr 1986
JMUA	Jun 1991	Sep 1991



A close-up of a squadron F/A-18A in flight.

VFA-136

Lineage

Established as Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SIX (VFA-136) on 1 July 1985.

The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-136 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname



The squadron's *Knighthawks* insignia.

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 23 May 1985. Colors for the Knight-hawk insignia are: a light blue background outlined in dark blue; black shield outlined in red; blue-white hawk with black markings; yellow feet and beak; red tongue; black eye; light blue scrolls outlined in dark blue with black lettering.

Nickname: Knight-hawks, 1985-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

Aug 1990: Embarked in *Eisenhower* (CVN 69), the squadron's F/A-18s flew missions in the Red Sea in support of Operation Desert Shield, the build-up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait. The *Eisenhower* task force was the first U.S. force in position to deter Iraqi incursions into Saudi Arabia.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Lemoore	01 Jul 1985
NAS Cecil Field	28 Mar 1986

Commanding Officers

Location	Date Assumed Command
CDR G. A. Gurick	01 Jul 1985
CDR M. D. Malone	24 Aug 1987
CDR John B. Sandknop	11 Mar 1989
CDR Jeffrey R. Nelson	20 Sep 1990
CDR D. R. Miller	14 Dec 1991

Aircraft Assignment

Type of Aircraft	Date Type First Received
F/A-18A	07 Jan 1986
F/A-18C	13 Nov 1990



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet about to be launched from *Eisenhower* (CVN 69).



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet in flight, circa 1986 or 1987.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
29 Sep 1987	28 Mar 1988	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med
08 Mar 1990	12 Sep 1990	CVW-7	CVN 69	F/A-18A	Med/Red Sea
26 Sep 1991	02 Apr 1992	CVW-7	CVN 69	F/A-18C	Med/IO/NorLant

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-13	AK	10 Jun 1986
CVW-7	AG	01 Oct 1988

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
MUC	08 Mar 1990	12 Sep 1990
SASM	08 Aug 1990	24 Aug 1990



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet in flight armed with a Sidewinder missile on its wing tip, February 1989.

VFA-137

Lineage

Established as Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN (VFA-137) on 1 July 1985.

The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-137 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 1



The squadron's stylized hawk design was approved by CNO in April 1985.

April 1985. Colors for the stylized hawk design are: a black background outlined in orange; the upper part of the hawk design is white and the lower part is reddish-brown; gray beak outlined in black; yellow eye with a black pupil; grayish-blue contrails; orange stylized aircraft; black scrolls outlined in orange and the lettering is orange.

Nickname: Kestrels, 1985-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

Aug–Sep 1989: *Coral Sea* (CV 43), with VFA-137 embarked, operated off the coast of Lebanon following the Israeli capture of Sheik Obeid and the reported killing of Lieutenant Colonel William R. Higgins, USMC. Squadron aircraft flew air support (Combat Air Patrols) during this crisis and the evacuation personnel from the U.S. embassy in Beirut.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Cecil Field	01 Jul 1985

Commanding Officers

<i>Date Assumed Command</i>	
01 Jul 1985	CDR Raymond E. Thomas
03 Sep 1987	CDR Barry J. Dysart
02 Mar 1989	CDR Philip G. Howard
04 May 1990	CDR Craig B. Henderson

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F/A-18A	25 Nov 1985



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet about to trap on Coral Sea (CV 43), 1989.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
29 Sep 1987	28 Mar 1988	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med
31 May 1989	30 Sep 1989	CVW-13	CV 43	F/A-18A	Med

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-13	AK	01 Jun 1986
CVW-6	AE	01 Oct 1990

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
NAVE	01 Jan 1987 31 Dec 1987
MUC	30 Mar 1988 30 Sep 1989



A squadron F/A-18A in flight, March 1991.

VFA-146

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIX (VA-146) on 1 February 1956.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SIX (VFA-146) on 21 July 1989. This is the first squadron in the Navy to be assigned the designation VA-146 and VFA-146.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The first insignia for VA-146 was approved by CNO on 23 November 1956. This design consisted of two concentric circles. The



The globe and mach wave symbol was part of the squadron's first insignia.

Emanating from North America was a 300 degree arc in black. The mach wave and arc from North America symbolized the range and striking power of the squadron.

The first nickname the squadron reported to have used was Blacktails. This name was in reference to the black color assigned to the squadron's position in the air group. The nickname Blue Diamonds was adopted by the squadron sometime in the late 1950s. In 1968 the squadron elected to simplify their insignia and

bring it in concert with their nickname. Their insignia was revised and approved by CNO on 29 August 1968. The new insignia kept the old design of two concentric circles with an outer circle of dark blue and the inner circle of light blue. Superimposed on the two circles was the yellow mach wave and four dark blue diamonds. Attached to the lower part of the insignia was a scroll



The squadron's insignia was modified and approved for use by CNO in 1968. When the squadron was designated VFA, the designation in the scroll was changed from VA-146 to VFA-146.

outlined in dark blue with a light blue background and lettering in yellow.

Nickname: Blacktails, 1956-late 1950s.

Blue Diamonds, late 1950s-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

17–21 Jan 1960: VA-146 squadron aircraft participated in a coast to coast non-stop cross country flight.

8 Jun–13 Jul 1964: The Blue Diamonds participated in Yankee Team Operations. These operations involved photo reconnaissance missions over Laos. The squadron's A-4C Skyhawks were used to provide tanker and rocket-armed escort support for the photo reconnaissance sorties over Laos and South Vietnam. This type of support was also provided by the squadron during the period 15 August to 20 September 1964.

4–5 Aug 1964: Aircraft from VA-146 flew night sorties in support of Desoto Patrol operations conducted by American destroyers operating in international waters off the coast of North Vietnam. These sorties were the result of attacks conducted against *Maddox* (DD 731) by North Vietnamese motor torpedo boats on 2 August 1964. The American destroyer had been conducting Desoto Patrol operations when this incident occurred. Desoto Patrol operations involved the collection of signal intelligence.

5 Aug 1964: VA-146 aircraft participated in Operation Pierce Arrow. This operation involved retaliatory air strikes against North Vietnamese torpedo boats and their bases and supporting facilities because of the attacks against the *Maddox* (DD 731) and *Turner Joy* (DD 951) on 4 August by North Vietnamese motor torpedo boats. VA-146's A-4Cs flew 8 sorties against two installations. They experienced heavy antiaircraft ground fire but none of their aircraft were damaged. The sorties by VA-146 and the other



A squadron F9F-8 Cougar trapping aboard Hornet (CVA 12), March 1957 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

units of CVW-14 against Hon Gay and the torpedo boats operating near Hon Me Island resulted in the sinking or damaging of 8 torpedo boats.

5 Aug 1964: VA-146 was one of the first squadrons to employ the A-4C in combat.

29 Jun 1966: CDR Schaufelberger led a 28 plane strike of VA-146 and other CVW-14 aircraft against the Haiphong POL complex. This was the first American strike against this complex.

30 Sep 1967: CDR Robert F. Dunn was awarded a Silver Star for his actions on this date.

16 Jun 1969: While operating on Yankee Station aboard *Enterprise*, the carrier was ordered north to the Sea of Japan in response to an international incident involving the shoot down of a Navy EC-121 by the North Korean Air Force.

Apr 1970: The squadron flew across the country to board an east coast based carrier, *America* (CVA 66), for an extended combat deployment to Vietnam.

May 1970: CDR Stephens, along with other pilots from VA-147, flew the newest update version of the A-7 Corsair II, the A-7E, into combat for the first time.

Dec 1971: During their second line period on Yankee Station, VA-146 became the first Navy squadron to use the laser-guided bomb (LGB) during combat in Southeast Asia.

May 1972: The squadron's A-7Es conducted the first night mining missions for the Corsair II E models when they flew combat mining sorties on North Vietnamese rivers.

Feb-Apr 1973: VA-146 acted as a deterrant force during Operation Endsweep, the sweeping of mines from North Vietnamese waters.

Nov 1974: VA-146, as part of the CVW-9 team aboard *Constellation*, operated in the Persian Gulf. This was the first time in 26 years that an American carrier had entered and operated in the Persian Gulf.



A squadron FJ-4B Fury on the elevator of *Ranger* (CVA 61) during her cruise to the Med in 1959.

7 Mar 1979: *Constellation* and her air wing were ordered to make a high speed transit to the Indian Ocean from the Philippines in response to the conflict between North and South Yemen.

Feb-Oct 1980: VA-146 made the first western Pacific deployment with the new Forward Looking Infrared Radar System (FLIR) installed on the A-7E Corsair II.

1983: The Blue Diamonds were tasked with fleet introduction of the HARM system. This new missile succeeds Shrike and ARM as the primary antiradiation, defense-suppression air-to-surface missile.

Sep 1988: *Nimitz* (CVN 68), with VA-146 embarked, operated in the Sea of Japan in support of the Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Miramar	01 Feb 1956
NAS Lemoore	15 May 1962

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR E. V. Davidson	01 Feb 1956
CDR J. R. Kincaid	30 Aug 1957
LCDR W. W. Alldredge	29 Aug 1958
CDR G. S. Hodgson	12 Aug 1959
LCDR J. R. Faulk	28 Dec 1960
CDR R. G. Hanecak	12 Oct 1961
CDR J. D. Ingram	09 Mar 1963
CDR E. V. Crangle	28 Oct 1963
CDR W. H. Harris	20 Nov 1964
CDR H. B. Loheed	03 Dec 1965
CDR A. A. Schaufelberger	01 Feb 1966
CDR R. F. Dunn	25 Jan 1967
CDR P. E. Johnson	14 Nov 1967
CDR Ford J. E. Schultz	13 Feb 1968
CDR Jesse R. Emerson III	18 Feb 1969
CDR Wayne L. Stephens	19 Dec 1969
CDR Manual B. Sousa	29 Jan 1971
CDR John A. Miller	07 Dec 1971
CDR O. F. Baldwin	15 Dec 1972
CDR D. K. Tyler	28 Mar 1974
CDR L. A. Sanders	11 Jun 1975
CDR R. I. Howson	16 Sep 1976
CDR L. H. Price	14 Dec 1977
CDR J. A. Lair	04 Nov 1978
CDR L. J. Vernon	26 Feb 1980
CDR W. S. Orr	22 Apr 1981
CDR M. G. Shaw	09 Jul 1982
CDR P. C. Campbell	01 Dec 1983
CDR G. N. Crim, Jr.	14 Jun 1985
CDR R. E. Arnott	30 Sep 1986
CDR David C. Kendall	11 Mar 1988
CDR Phillip H. Mills	21 Jul 1989
CDR Steven E. Davis	02 Nov 1990



A formation of squadron FJ-4B Furys, 1961.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F9F-8	Feb 1956
F9F-6	Feb 1956
F9F-5	Feb 1956
FJ-4B	04 Sep 1957
A4D-2N/A-4C*	06 Jun 1962

Aircraft Assignment—Continued

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-7B	04 Jun 1968
A-7E	20 Sep 1969
F/A-18C	18 Nov 1989

* The A4D-2N designation was changed to A-4C in 1962.



A squadron A-4C Skyhawk and a VA-144 Skyhawk on Constellation's (CVA 64) elevator during her combat deployment to Vietnam in 1964–1965.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
21 Jan 1957	25 Jul 1957	CVG-14	CVA 12	F9F-8/8B	WestPac
27 May 1958	20 Aug 1958	CVG-14	CVA 61	FJ-4B	SoLant
03 Jan 1959	27 Jul 1959	CVG-14	CVA 61	FJ-4B	WestPac
14 May 1960	15 Dec 1960	CVG-14	CVA 34	FJ-4B	WestPac
09 Nov 1961	12 May 1962	CVG-14	CVA 16	FJ-4B	WestPac
21 Feb 1963	10 Sep 1963	CVG-14	CVA 64	A-4C	WestPac
05 May 1964	01 Feb 1965	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
10 Dec 1965	25 Aug 1966	CVW-14	CVA 61	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
29 Apr 1967	04 Dec 1967	CVW-14	CVA 64	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Jan 1969	02 Jul 1969	CVW-9	CVAN 65	A-7B	WestPac/Vietnam
10 Apr 1970	21 Dec 1970	CVW-9	CVA 66	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
01 Oct 1971	30 Jun 1972	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
05 Jan 1973	11 Oct 1973	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
21 Jun 1974	22 Dec 1974	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-7E	WestPac/IO
12 Apr 1977	21 Nov 1977	CVW-9	CV 64	A-7E	WestPac
26 Sep 1978	17 May 1979	CVW-9	CV 64	A-7E	WestPac/IO
26 Feb 1980	15 Oct 1980	CVW-9	CV 64	A-7E	WestPac/IO
20 Oct 1981	23 May 1982	CVW-9	CV 64	A-7E	WestPac/IO
13 Jan 1984	01 Aug 1984	CVW-2	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
24 Jul 1985	21 Dec 1985	CVW-9	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
03 Jan 1987	29 Jun 1987	CVW-9	CV 63	A-7E	World Cruise
02 Sep 1988	27 Feb 1989	CVW-9	CVN 68	A-7E	WestPac/IO
15 Jun 1989	09 Jul 1989	CVW-9	CVN 68	A-7E	NorPac

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-14/CVW-14†	A/NK*	01 Feb 1956
CVW-9	NG	Aug 1968
CVW-2	NE	12 Nov 1982
CVW-9	NG	15 Sep 1984

* The tail code was changed from A to NK in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

† CVG-14 was redesignated CVW-14 when Carrier Air Group (CVG) designations were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.



A squadron A-7E Corsair II in flight alongside an A-6 Intruder, 1984.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
AFEM	09 Oct 1960	12 Oct 1960
	20 Dec 1961	21 Dec 1961
	28 Feb 1962	06 Mar 1962
	06 Jun 1964	13 Jul 1964
	04 Aug 1964	21 Sep 1964
	29 Oct 1964	23 Nov 1964
	20 Apr 1969	11 May 1969
	24 Sep 1970	26 Sep 1970
	02 Nov 1988	05 Dec 1988
MUC	26 May 1970	08 Nov 1970
	12 Mar 1979	19 Apr 1979

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NEM	17 May 1979	31 May 1980
	21 Jan 1987	17 May 1987
	12 Mar 1979	19 Apr 1979
	26 Apr 1980	04 Aug 1980
NUC	12 Aug 1980	19 Aug 1980
	02 Aug 1964	05 Aug 1964
	10 Jan 1966	06 Aug 1966
	18 May 1967	26 Nov 1967
PUC	22 Oct 1971	13 Jun 1972
RVNGC	24 Jan 1966	
	26 Jan 1966	27 Jan 1966
	30 Jan 1966	

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
	04 Feb 1966
	06 Feb 1966
	24 Feb 1966
	26 Feb 1966 28 Feb 1966
	04 Mar 1966
	06 Mar 1966 12 Mar 1966
	20 Mar 1966
	27 Apr 1966 28 Apr 1966
	01 May 1967 01 Nov 1967
	31 Mar 1969 03 Apr 1969
	05 Apr 1969
	31 May 1969 16 Jun 1969
	30 Mar 1972 01 Jun 1972
VNSM	15 Jan 1966 12 Feb 1966
	23 Feb 1966 22 Mar 1966
	12 Apr 1966 09 May 1966
	30 May 1966 30 Jun 1966
	13 Jul 1966 06 Aug 1966
	08 Jun 1967 11 Jun 1967
	18 Jun 1967 25 Jul 1967
	01 Aug 1967 03 Sep 1967

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
	25 Sep 1967 15 Oct 1967
	24 Oct 1967 12 Nov 1967
	30 Mar 1969 18 Apr 1969
	22 May 1969 24 May 1969
	29 May 1969 17 Jun 1969
	17 May 1970
	19 May 1970
	24 May 1970 16 Jun 1970
	28 Jun 1970 13 Jul 1970
	20 Jul 1970 04 Aug 1970
	24 Aug 1970 18 Sep 1970
	13 Oct 1970 08 Nov 1970
	02 Nov 1971 22 Nov 1971
	29 Nov 1971 31 Dec 1971
	09 Jan 1972 03 Feb 1972
	09 Feb 1972 02 Mar 1972
	13 Mar 1972 23 Mar 1972
	07 Apr 1972 18 May 1972
	24 May 1972 25 May 1972
	31 May 1972 13 Jun 1972
	25 Feb 1973 14 Mar 1973
	19 Mar 1973 28 Mar 1973



A squadron F/A-18C Hornet on the flight line at NAS Lemoore, California, December 1989.

VFA-147

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN (VA-147) on 1 February 1967.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN (VFA-147) on 20 July 1989. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-147 and VFA-147 designations.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 30 June 1967. Colors for Argonaut insignia are: a yellow background outlined in black with an



The squadron's Argonaut insignia was approved by CNO on 30 June 1967.



When the squadron was redesignated VFA, the only change to its insignia was the designation in the scroll and the addition of a twin tail on the mythical beast.

low background outlined in black with an inner circle of yellow and white; gray mythical flying animal with black markings and outlined in black with a red and white eye; white Argonaut with a gray breast plate and helmet, a red skirt and helmet plumage, gray sword and the entire figure has black markings. At a later date, a lower scroll was added to the insignia. The scroll was red outlined in black with black lettering.

A modification to the insignia was approved by CNO on 22 December 1989. The color of the Argonaut's skirt, helmet plumage and scroll were changed to orange and the mythical flying animal was given a twin tail.

Nickname: Argonauts, 1967-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

Dec 1967: The squadron flew its first combat missions, striking targets in North Vietnam. This was the first introduction of the A-7 Corsair II in combat.

Jan 1968: The squadron flew support missions for the defenders during the siege at Khe Sanh, South Vietnam.

Jan 1968: *Ranger* (CVA 61), with VA-147 embarked, was operating on Yankee Station when it was ordered to the Sea of Japan following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by the North Koreans on 23 January 1968. *Ranger* and VA-147 operated in the area until relieved on 5 March.

Apr 1969: Following the shoot down of a Navy EC-121 aircraft by the North Koreans on 15 April, *Ranger*, with VA-147 embarked, left Yankee Station and proceeded to the Sea of Japan for operations off the coast of Korea.

Apr 1972: The squadron participated in Operation Freedom Train, tactical air sorties against military and logistic targets in the southern part of North Vietnam. It also provided support for forces in South Vietnam following a massive invasion by North Vietnam on 1 April 1972.

May 1972: The squadron participated in the early phase of Operation Linebacker I, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam above 20 degrees north latitude.

29 Jan 1973: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander T. R. Wilkinson, failed to return from a routine sortie off the coast of the Philippines.

Mar-Jun 1973: VA-147 provided aerial support during Operation End Sweep, the removal of mines in North Vietnamese waters.

Nov 1974: VA-147, part of the CVW-9 team embarked on *Constellation* (CVA 64), operated in the Persian Gulf. This was the first time in 26 years that an American carrier had entered and operated in the Persian Gulf.

Mar 1979: *Constellation*, with elements of VA-147 embarked, was ordered to make a high speed transit to the Indian Ocean from the Philippines in response to the conflict between North and South Yemen.

Sep 1988: *Nimitz* (CVN 68), with VA-147 embarked, operated in the Sea of Japan in support of the Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, Republic of Korea.



A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs, circa 1975.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Lemoore	01 Feb 1967

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR James C. Hill	01 Feb 1967
CDR W. Scott Gray III	21 Jun 1968
CDR Donald J. Duhrkopf	27 Mar 1969
CDR R. N. Livingston	13 Mar 1970
CDR W. T. Majors	29 Jan 1971
CDR T. R. Wilkinson	04 Feb 1972
CDR W. C. Smith	29 Jan 1973
CDR D. D. Smith	08 Mar 1974
CDR Bobby C. Lee	23 May 1975
CDR Paul B. Austin	30 Aug 1976
CDR Gary L. Harter	15 Dec 1977

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Philip S. Gubbins	03 Nov 1978
CDR David J. L'Herauld	29 Jan 1980
CDR Frank C. Bledsoe	18 May 1981
CDR Eric Vanderpoel II	05 Aug 1982
CDR Christopher G. Gates	06 Jan 1984
CDR James H. Oliver	21 Jun 1985
CDR J. R. Hutchison	01 Jul 1986
CDR Terry R. Nolan	04 Sep 1987
CDR Jeffrey A. Lehman	24 Mar 1989
CDR Craig F. Weideman	14 Sep 1990

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-7A	28 Jun 1967
A-7E	17 Sep 1969
F/A-18C	05 Dec 1989



Two squadron F/A-18C Hornets firing air-to-ground rockets, 1990.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
04 Nov 1967	25 May 1968	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Oct 1968	17 May 1969	CVW-2	CVA 61	A-7A	WestPac/Vietnam
10 Apr 1970	21 Dec 1970	CVW-9	CVA 66	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
01 Oct 1971	30 Jun 1972	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
05 Jan 1973	11 Oct 1973	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
21 Jun 1974	22 Dec 1974	CVW-9	CVA 64	A-7E	WestPac/IO
12 Apr 1977	21 Nov 1977	CVW-9	CV 64	A-7E	WestPac
26 Sep 1978	17 May 1979	CVW-9	CV 64	A-7E	WestPac/IO
26 Feb 1980	15 Oct 1980	CVW-9	CV 64*	A-7E	WestPac
20 Oct 1981	23 May 1982	CVW-9	CV 64*	A-7E	WestPac
13 Jan 1984	01 Aug 1984	CVW-2	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
24 Jul 1985	21 Dec 1985	CVW-9	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
03 Jan 1987	29 Jun 1987	CVW-9	CV 63	A-7E	World Cruise
02 Sep 1988	27 Feb 1989	CVW-9	CVN 68	A-7E	WestPac/IO
15 Jun 1989	09 Jul 1989	CVW-9	CVN 68	A-7E	NorPac

* The squadron remained ashore at NAS Cubi Point as CVW-9's Beach Detachment during most of *Constellation's* deployment to WestPac. This shore based period for VA-147 was part of the Swing Wing Concept.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
VA-122*		01 Feb 1967
CVW-2	NE	28 Jun 1967
CVW-9	NG	02 Jul 1969
CVW-2	NE	12 Nov 1982
CVW-9	NG	15 Sep 1984

* The squadron was under the operational control of VA-122 during its period of training in the new A-7 Corsair II.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
MUC	03 Dec 1967	09 May 1968
	26 May 1970	08 Nov 1970
	12 Mar 1979	19 Apr 1979
	21 Jan 1987	17 May 1987
NUC	29 Nov 1968	10 May 1969
PUC	22 Oct 1971	13 Jun 1972
NAVE	01 Jan 1976	30 Jun 1977
AFEM	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968



A formation of squadron F/A-18C Hornets fly over Kuwait City during Operation Southern Watch, 1993.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NEM	20 Mar 1969	22 Mar 1969
	20 Apr 1969	27 Apr 1969
	24 Sep 1970	26 Sep 1970
	02 Nov 1988	05 Dec 1988
	12 Mar 1979	19 Apr 1979
	26 Apr 1980	04 Aug 1980
RVNGC	12 Aug 1980	19 Aug 1980
	02 Dec 1967	
	09 Jan 1968	
	15 Jan 1968	16 Jan 1968
	20 Jan 1968	24 Jan 1968
	26 Jan 1968	
	19 Mar 1968	25 Mar 1968
	29 Mar 1968	06 Apr 1968
	08 Apr 1968	10 Apr 1968
	21 Apr 1968	
	23 Apr 1968	24 Apr 1968
	29 Apr 1968	02 May 1968
	07 Jan 1969	30 Jan 1969
	15 Feb 1969	16 Mar 1969
	04 Apr 1969	14 Apr 1969
	30 Mar 1972	01 Jun 1972
	03 Dec 1967	29 Dec 1967
VNSM		

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	06 Jan 1968	28 Jan 1968
	18 Mar 1968	12 Apr 1968
	21 Apr 1968	09 May 1968
	07 Jan 1969	30 Jan 1969
	15 Feb 1969	16 Mar 1969
	04 Apr 1969	17 Apr 1969
	17 May 1970	
	19 May 1970	
	24 May 1970	16 Jun 1970
	28 Jun 1970	13 Jul 1970
	20 Jul 1970	04 Aug 1970
	24 Aug 1970	18 Sep 1970
	13 Oct 1970	09 Nov 1970
	02 Nov 1971	22 Nov 1971
	29 Nov 1971	31 Dec 1971
	09 Jan 1972	03 Feb 1972
	09 Feb 1972	02 Mar 1972
	13 Mar 1972	23 Mar 1972
	07 Apr 1972	18 May 1972
	24 May 1972	25 May 1972
	31 May 1972	13 Jun 1972
	25 Feb 1973	14 Mar 1973
	19 Mar 1973	28 Mar 1973



A squadron F/A-18C Hornet being refueled by an Air Force KC-135H Stratotanker with a couple of F-14 Tomcats in the background, 1993.

VFA-151

Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron TWENTY THREE (VF-23) on 6 August 1948.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE (VF-151) on 23 February 1959.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE (VFA-151) on 1 June 1986. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-151 designation.



The squadron's first insignia was the knight and shield design.



The squadron's second insignia, the skull and electron rings design, was approved by CNO in May 1955.



The squadron continued to use the skull and electron rings design following its redesignation to VFA.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 9 August 1949. Colors for the knight and shield insignia were: large white shield outlined in black; blue helmet outlined in black with red gems; fuchsia cloak; purple outer garment with a green band around the waist and over the shoulder, silver chain mail; brown boots and straps; blue small shield outlined in black, inside the shield was an outer circle of white and a center of green; red lightning bolt; gold sword outlined in black with red gems.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 26 May 1955. Colors for the skull insignia are: a black background outlined in yellow; white skull with black teeth and markings; red and black eyes; blue electron rings; gray sword with a red flame at the tip; white scroll with black lettering. The squadron continued to use this insignia following its redesignation to VF-151 and VFA-151.

Nickname: The Flashers, 1949–1959.

Vigilantes, 1959–present.

Chronology of Significant Events

15 Sep 1950: The squadron flew combat missions in support of the amphibious landings at Inchon, Korea.

Aug 1952: Squadron aircraft participated in joint operations with the U.S. Air Force, striking targets in Pyongyang and the surrounding area.

Mar 1954: The squadron was deployed to the western Pacific aboard *Essex* (CVA 9) when the carrier was ordered to operate off the coast of Vietnam during the Viet Minh's assault against the French at Dien Bien Phu.



A squadron F2H-3 Banshee prepares to launch from Essex (CVA 9), 1954 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Aug–Sep 1958: The squadron flew sorties in the Taiwan Straits after the Chinese Communists bombarded Quemoy Island.

Jan 1961: *Coral Sea* (CVA 43), with VF-151 embarked, operated in the South China Sea after Pathet Lao forces captured strategic positions in Laos.

Mar 1965: The squadron participated in Rolling Thunder operations, the systematic bombing of military targets in North Vietnam.

24 Oct 1967: The squadron's commanding officer, Commander C. R. Gillespie and his RIO Lieutenant (jg) R. C. Clark, were shot down by a surface-to-air missile while on a mission over North Vietnam. Commander Gillespie became a POW and was released on 14 March 1973, his RIO died in captivity.

Mar 1968: *Coral Sea*, with VF-151 embarked, operated on station off the coast of Korea following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) in January by North Korea.

May–Oct 1972: The squadron participated in Linebacker I operations, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam to interdict the flow of supplies and to reduce North Vietnam's ability to continue the war effort in South Vietnam.

Apr–May 1975: Squadron aircraft participated in

Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of American personnel from Saigon, South Vietnam, as the country fell to the communists.

Aug-Sep 1976: Embarked in *Midway* (CV 41), the squadron conducted flight operations near the Korean Peninsula following the murder of U.S. military personnel in the Korean DMZ by North Koreans.

Apr-May 1979: *Midway*, with VF-151 embarked, deployed to the Gulf of Aden to relieve *Constellation* (CV 64) and maintain a U.S. carrier presence following the outbreak of fighting between North and South Yemen and the fall of the Shah of Iran.

Nov 1979-Feb 1980: Following the Iranian seizure of the American Embassy in Teheran and the taking of American hostages on 4 November, *Midway*, with VF-151 embarked, proceeded to the Gulf of Oman and remained on station until relieved in early February 1980.

May-Jun 1980: *Midway*, with VF-151 embarked, operated off the coast of Korea due to the civil unrest in South Korea and the massacre of several hundred people in the town of Kwangju.

Dec 1981: Following tensions in Korea, the squadron operated from *Midway* off the coast of Korea until the tensions subsided.

Apr-Nov 1986: VF-151 temporarily relocated to NAS Lemoore for transition training in the F/A-18 Hornet. The squadron's new Hornets were flown to Japan between 18-21 November. VF-151 was one of only two F-4 fighter squadrons to transition to the F/A-18 and be redesignated a strike fighter squadron.

Sep 1988: During the Summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea, the squadron was embarked on *Midway* and operating in the Sea of Japan to demonstrate U.S. support for a peaceful olympics.

Dec 1989: *Midway*, with VFA-151 embarked, maintained station off the coast of the Philippines during an attempted coup in that country.

Nov 1990-Jan 1991: The squadron flew missions in support of Operation Desert Shield, the build up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait.



A squadron F4U-5 Corsair on the deck of Wright (CVL 49), November 1948 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Oceana	06 Aug 1948
NAS Alameda	Aug 1950
NAS Moffett Field	11 Nov 1950
NAS Miramar	10 Jul 1961
NS Yokosuka (NAF Atsugi & Misawa)	05 Oct 1973*

* VF-151, along with CVW-5 and *Midway* (CVA 41), were part of a program to permanently assign a carrier and air wing to an overseas home port. *Midway's* new home port was Naval Station Yokosuka, Japan. The squadron would normally operate out of NAF Atsugi or Misawa when the carrier was in port NS Yokosuka. The assignment was effective 30 June 1973. However, the squadron did not arrive until 5 October 1973.



A squadron F-4B Phantom II is refueled by an A-6 Intruder while another squadron aircraft flies escort, June 1966.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Thomas J. Gallagher, Jr.	06 Aug 1948
LCDR C. E. Russell	Jul 1950
CDR R. C. Mueller	14 Mar 1951
LCDR Charles C. Aikins	01 Feb 1952
LCDR William J. Moran	Feb 1953
CDR William H. Neal III	Jul 1954
CDR Charles A. Knight	Aug 1956
CDR R. K. Awtrey	07 Oct 1958
CDR J. H. Stewart	21 Nov 1958
CDR M. S. Alexatos	05 Feb 1960
CDR Randell H. Prothro	23 Jun 1961
CDR Charles L. Brooks	21 Jul 1962
CDR E. P. Hermann	09 Jul 1963
CDR Joseph M. Schneiders	07 Jul 1964
CDR J. D. Ward	Jun 1965
CDR John J. Chambers	09 Apr 1966

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Charles R. Gillispie, Jr.	Mar 1967
CDR Bobbie D. Williard	24 Oct 1967
CDR Russell E. Davis	04 Nov 1968
CDR Fred B. Winton, Jr.	28 Nov 1969
CDR Glenn F. Keene	19 Nov 1970
CDR Charles G. Kother	17 Dec 1971
CDR John S. Disher	01 Dec 1972
CDR Denis T. Schwaad	30 Aug 1973
CDR Eugene D. Conner	06 Dec 1974
CDR James D. Curry	30 Apr 1976
CDR Jay H. Hall	01 Jul 1977
CDR Hugh D. Wisely	18 Oct 1978
CDR Gary M. Hughes	25 Sep 1979
CDR Richard S. Farrell	30 Dec 1980
CDR Charles C. Buchanan, Jr.	16 Apr 1982
CDR Charles L. Robinson	12 Oct 1983
CDR Russell M. Taylor II	30 Apr 1985
CDR Terrill S. Heath	09 May 1986
CDR Thomas A. Perkins III	22 Apr 1988
CDR James R. Goddard, Jr.	09 Sep 1989

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F4U-5	06 Aug 1948
F6F-5P	06 Aug 1948
F4U-4	Apr 1949
F9F-2	04 Jan 1951
F2H-3	Mar 1953
F4D-1	Dec 1956
F3H-2	13 Jan 1959
F-4B	14 Jan 1964
F-4N	Mar 1973
F-4J	Aug 1977
F-4S	08 Dec 1980
F/A-18A	15 Jul 1986



A formation of squadron F9F-2 Panthers in flight during their combat deployment to Korea aboard Princeton (CV 37) between May to August 1951.



A squadron F-4S Phantom II, in a low-visibility paint scheme, dives dropping bombs, circa 1986.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
03 May 1949	26 Sep 1949	CVG-2	CVB 43	F4U-4	Med
24 Aug 1950	11 Nov 1950	CVG-2	CV 21	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
12 May 1951	29 Aug 1951	CVG-19*	CV 37*	F9F-2	WestPac/Korea
16 Jun 1952	06 Feb 1953	ATG-2	CVA 9	F9F-2	WestPac/Korea
01 Dec 1953	12 Jul 1954	ATG-2	CVA 9	F2H-3	WestPac
19 Mar 1956	13 Sep 1956	ATG-4	CVA 10	F2H-3	WestPac
15 Feb 1958	02 Oct 1958	CVG-15	CVA 19	F4D-1	WestPac
01 Aug 1959	18 Jan 1960	CVG-15	CVA 19	F3H-2	WestPac
19 Sep 1960	27 May 1961	CVG-15	CVA 43	F3H-2	WestPac
12 Dec 1961	17 Jul 1962	CVG-15	CVA 43	F3H-2	WestPac
03 Apr 1963	25 Nov 1963	CVG-15	CVA 43	F3H-2	WestPac
07 Dec 1964	01 Nov 1965	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
12 May 1966	03 Dec 1966	CVW-15	CVA 64	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Jul 1967	06 Apr 1968	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
07 Sep 1968	18 Apr 1969	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
23 Sep 1969	01 Jul 1970	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
16 Apr 1971	06 Nov 1971	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam

Major Overseas Deployments—Continued

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
10 Apr 1972	03 Mar 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Sep 1973	05 Oct 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac†
16 Nov 1973	22 Dec 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
29 Jan 1974	06 Mar 1974	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
18 Oct 1974	20 Dec 1974	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
13 Jan 1975	18 Feb 1975	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
31 Mar 1975	29 May 1975	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
04 Oct 1975	19 Dec 1975	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac/IO
13 Mar 1976	26 Apr 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
19 May 1976	22 Jun 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
09 Jul 1976	04 Aug 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
01 Nov 1976	17 Dec 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
11 Jan 1977	01 Mar 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
19 Apr 1977	05 May 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
08 Aug 1977	02 Sep 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N/J	WestPac
27 Sep 1977	21 Dec 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
11 Apr 1978	23 May 1978	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
09 Nov 1978	23 Dec 1978	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
11 Jan 1979	20 Feb 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
07 Apr 1979	18 Jun 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
20 Aug 1979	14 Sep 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
30 Sep 1979	20 Feb 1980	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
14 Jul 1980	26 Nov 1980	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
23 Feb 1981	05 Jun 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac/IO
26 Jun 1981	16 Jul 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
03 Sep 1981	06 Oct 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
26 Apr 1982	18 Jun 1982	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
14 Sep 1982	11 Dec 1982	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	NorPac/WestPac/IO
02 Jun 1983	13 Aug 1983	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
25 Oct 1983	11 Dec 1983	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
28 Dec 1983	23 May 1984	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac/IO
15 Oct 1984	12 Dec 1984	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
01 Feb 1985	28 Mar 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
10 Jun 1985	14 Oct 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac/IO
15 Nov 1985	12 Dec 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
17 Jan 1986	30 Mar 1986	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
09 Jan 1987	20 Mar 1987	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
23 Apr 1987	13 Jul 1987	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
15 Oct 1987	12 Apr 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
18 Oct 1988	09 Nov 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
21 Jan 1989	24 Feb 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
27 Feb 1989	09 Apr 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
31 May 1989	25 Jul 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
15 Aug 1989	11 Dec 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
20 Feb 1990	06 Apr 1990	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
02 Oct 1990	17 Apr 1991	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf

* Squadron personnel, except 20 pilots and 13 enlisted men who were flown to Japan, embarked USNS *General Weigel* (TAP 119) for transportation from the U.S. to *Princeton* (CV 37), operating in Korea. The squadron embarked *Princeton* on 30 May 1951 and, along with other squadrons, replaced the original Air Group 19 squadrons that had deployed to Korea with the carrier. The primary squadrons in CVG-19 when it deployed to Korea in November 1950 included VF-191, VF-192, VF-193 and VA-195. These squadrons were replaced in May 1951 by VF-23, VF-821, VF-871 and VA-55.

† VF-151, CVW-5 and *Midway* arrived at their new home port, Naval Station Yokosuka, Japan. With the squadron permanently forward deployed all future deployments for the squadron will cover only those operations outside the home waters of Japan.



A squadron F3H-2 Demon at NAS Miramar, California (Courtesy Duane Kasulka Collection).



Two squadron F4D-1 Skyraiders in flight during their deployment aboard Hancock (CVA 19) to WestPac in 1958.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVBG-1/CVG-2*	M	06 Aug 1948
COMFAIRALAMEDA		03 Dec 1950
CVG-19	B	25 May 1951
CVG-2	M	29 Aug 1951
ATG-2	†	23 May 1952
ATG-4	Z‡	30 Mar 1955
CVG-15/CVW-15§	NL	29 Oct 1957

Air Wing Assignments—Continued

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-16	AH	01 Sep 1970
CVW-5	NF	16 Feb 1971

* CVBG-1 was redesignated CVG-2 on 1 September 1948.

† ATG-2 was not assigned a tail code until July 1956.

‡ The tail code Z was assigned to ATG-4 on 24 July 1956.

§ CVG-15 was redesignated CVW-15 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet lands aboard Midway (CV 41), 1987.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jan 1982	30 Jun 1983
	01 Jul 1983	31 Dec 1984
KPUC	15 Sep 1950	26 Oct 1950
KSM	14 Sep 1950	26 Oct 1950
	30 May 1951	16 Aug 1951
AFEM	26 Jul 1952	25 Jan 1953
	26 Aug 1958	07 Sep 1958
	14 Sep 1959	17 Sep 1959
	25 Apr 1961	28 Apr 1961
	30 Apr 1961	01 May 1961
	04 May 1961	09 May 1961
	12 Jan 1962	19 Jan 1962
	24 Jan 1962	27 Jan 1962
	02 Feb 1965	05 Mar 1965
	16 Mar 1965	17 Apr 1965
	02 May 1965	28 May 1965
	23 Jun 1965	03 Jul 1965
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	10 Dec 1969	11 Dec 1969
	17 Oct 1971	19 Oct 1971
HSM	20 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
NUC	07 Feb 1965	18 Oct 1965
	29 May 1966	24 Nov 1966
	13 Aug 1967	19 Feb 1968
	10 Oct 1968	31 Mar 1969

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
MUC	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	01 Jan 1978	30 Jun 1979
	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
	27 Oct 1969	01 Jun 1970
	07 May 1971	28 Oct 1971
PUC	13 Nov 1979	08 Feb 1980
	27 Jul 1982	01 May 1984
NEM	07 Sep 1989	25 Oct 1989
	30 Apr 1972	09 Feb 1973
RVNGC	15 Apr 1979	06 Jun 1979
	21 Nov 1979	07 Feb 1980
	19 Aug 1980	13 Nov 1980
	12 Mar 1981	19 May 1981
	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
SASM	12 Oct 1965	
	21 Jun 1966	22 Jun 1966
	23 Nov 1967	
	02 Dec 1967	
	04 Dec 1967	
	20 Dec 1967	22 Dec 1967
	20 Jan 1968	
	23 Jan 1968	27 Jan 1968
	29 Jan 1968	19 Feb 1968
	15 Oct 1968	
RVNGC	17 Oct 1968	18 Oct 1968
	21 Oct 1968	

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	25 Oct 1968	27 Oct 1968
	14 Nov 1968	16 Nov 1968
	23 Nov 1968	
	25 Nov 1968	
	28 Nov 1968	
	01 Dec 1968	02 Dec 1968
	04 Dec 1968	05 Dec 1968
	30 Dec 1968	
	01 Jan 1969	03 Jan 1969
	05 Jan 1969	
	07 Jan 1969	10 Jan 1969
	14 Jan 1969	19 Jan 1969
	22 Jan 1969	
	24 Jan 1969	
	26 Jan 1969	
	09 Feb 1969	20 Feb 1969
	22 Feb 1969	03 Mar 1969
	19 Mar 1969	31 Mar 1969
	30 Mar 1972	15 Jul 1972
VNSM	04 Jul 1965	24 Jul 1965
	11 Aug 1965	11 Sep 1965
	21 Sep 1965	15 Oct 1965
	14 Jun 1966	13 Jul 1966
	27 Jul 1966	31 Aug 1966
	08 Sep 1966	01 Oct 1966
	19 Oct 1966	09 Nov 1966
	26 Aug 1967	01 Oct 1967

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	12 Oct 1967	28 Oct 1967
	04 Nov 1967	05 Nov 1967
	11 Nov 1967	08 Dec 1967
	16 Dec 1967	07 Jan 1968
	15 Jan 1968	21 Feb 1968
	29 Dec 1968	30 Jan 1969
	08 Feb 1969	03 Mar 1969
	19 Mar 1969	30 Mar 1969
	26 Oct 1969	18 Nov 1969
	22 Dec 1969	19 Jan 1970
	17 Feb 1970	09 Mar 1970
	19 Mar 1970	11 Apr 1970
	28 Apr 1970	01 Jun 1970
	17 May 1971	09 Jun 1971
	29 Jun 1971	20 Jul 1971
	31 Jul 1971	17 Aug 1971
	26 Sep 1971	11 Oct 1971
	01 May 1972	01 Jun 1972
	11 Jun 1972	07 Jul 1972
	16 Jul 1972	13 Aug 1972
	23 Aug 1972	10 Sep 1972
	19 Sep 1972	12 Oct 1972
	23 Oct 1972	23 Nov 1972
	03 Dec 1972	22 Dec 1972
	31 Dec 1972	
	04 Jan 1973	24 Jan 1973
	03 Feb 1973	09 Feb 1973
SASM	02 Nov 1990	14 Mar 1991



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet flies over Mt. Fuji, Japan.

VFA-161

Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIXTY ONE (VF-161) on 1 September 1960.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED SIXTY ONE (VFA-161) on 1 June 1986.

Disestablished on 1 April 1988. The first squadron to be assigned the VFA-161 designation.



The squadron's first insignia was approved for use by CNO in 1962.

was adopted at a later date, placing the design inside a red circular background with white scrolls outlined in red and red lettering on the scrolls.

A new squadron insignia was approved by CNO on 19 January 1982. Colors for the torii gate insignia were: a white background with a black and red torii gate; red lightning bolt outlined in white and black; black scrolls with red and white lettering.

Nickname: Chargers, 1960–1988.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 14 June 1962. Colors for the shield insignia were: a black shield with a white diagonal stripe; white trident and compass rose; and red stylized symbols on the diagonal stripe. A modification to the insignia



A new insignia design was adopted by the squadron in 1982; however, the squadron still maintained its old Chargers nickname.

Chronology of Significant Events

Nov 1963: Embarked on *Oriskany* (CVA 34), the squadron operated in the South China Sea during a crisis in South Vietnam and the coup that overthrew President Diem.

13 Jun 1966: Following a strike by CVW-15 aircraft against a railroad and highway bridge in North Vietnam, four Phantoms from VF-161 engaged six North Vietnamese MiG-17s that were pursuing the retiring strike aircraft. Lieutenant William M. McGuigan and his RIO, Lieutenant (jg) Robert M. Fowler, shot down one of the MiG-17s with a Sidewinder missile.

The other MiGs were driven off and all CVW-15 aircraft returned from the mission.

Mar 1968: *Coral Sea* (CVA 43), with VF-161 embarked, operated on station off the coast of Korea following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) in January by North Korea.

May–Oct 1972: The squadron participated in Linebacker I operations, heavy air strikes against targets in North Vietnam to interdict the flow of supplies and to reduce North Vietnam's ability to continue the war effort in South Vietnam.

18 May 1972: While flying MiG Combat Air Patrol near Kep Airfield in North Vietnam, two of the squadron's F-4B Phantoms engaged two MiG-19s. Lieutenant Henry A. Bartholomay and his RIO, Lieutenant Oran R. Brown, shot down the first MiG with a Sidewinder. A few seconds later, their wingman, Lieutenant Patrick E. Arwood and his RIO, Lieutenant James M. Bell, shot down the other MiG with a Sidewinder.

23 May 1972: Two of the squadron's aircraft, while flying MiG Combat Air Patrol for a strike in the Haiphong area, were vectored toward Kep Airfield and sighted 4 MiG-17s and 2 MiG-19s. VF-161's aircraft proceeded to engage the MiGs even though they were outnumbered 3 to 1. In the ensuing battle Lieutenant Commander Ronald E. McKeown and his RIO, Lieutenant John C. Ensich, shot down a MiG-17 and a MiG-19 with Sidewinders. The other 4 MiGs escaped and both of VF-161's aircraft returned to *Midway* (CVA 41). Both men were awarded the Navy Cross for their actions.

12 Jan 1973: Lieutenant Victor T. Kovaleski and his RIO, Lieutenant James A. Wise, shot down a MiG-17 over the Gulf of Tonkin. This was the last MiG aircraft to be shot down during the Vietnam Conflict.

Apr–May 1975: Squadron aircraft participated in Operation Frequent Wind, the evacuation of American personnel from Saigon, South Vietnam, as the country fell to the communists.

Aug–Sep 1976: Embarked in *Midway* (CV 41), the squadron conducted flight operations near the Korean Peninsula following the murder of U.S. military personnel in the Korean DMZ by North Koreans.

Apr–May 1979: *Midway*, with VF-161 embarked, deployed to the Gulf of Aden to relieve *Constellation* (CV 64) and maintain a U.S. carrier presence following the outbreak of fighting between North and South Yemen and the fall of the Shah of Iran.

Nov 1979–Feb 1980: Following the Iranian seizure of the American Embassy in Teheran and the taking of American hostages on 4 November, *Midway*, with VF-161 embarked, proceeded to the Gulf of Oman and remained on station until relieved in early February 1980.

May–Jun 1980: *Midway*, with VF-161 embarked, operated off the coast of Korea due to the civil unrest

in South Korea and the massacre of several hundred people in the town of Kwangju.

Dec 1981: Due to tensions in Korea the squadron operated from *Midway* off the coast of Korea until the tensions subsided.

May-Oct 1986: The squadron relocated to NAS Lemoore for transition training in the F/A-18 Hornet and redesignation to a Strike Fighter Squadron. VF-161 was one of only two F-4 fighter squadrons to be assigned the VFA designation.

Oct 1986-Jun 1987: Following the transfer of the squadron from CVW-5, and awaiting transfer to a newly established air wing, the squadron was in an inactive status at NAS Lemoore.



A squadron F3H-2 (F-3) Demon is refueled by an A-4 Skyhawk.



The squadron's last F3H-2 (F-3) Demon is piped over the side during a ceremony at NAS Miramar, California, September 1964.

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Cecil Field	01 Sep 1960
NAS Miramar	19 Sep 1961
NS Yokosuka (NAF Atsugi & Misawa)	05 Oct 1973*
NAS Lemoore	Oct 1986†

* VF-161, along with CVW-5 and *Midway* (CVA 41), were part of a program to permanently assign a carrier and air wing to an overseas home port. *Midway's* new home port was NS Yokosuka, Japan and the squadron would normally operate out of NAF Atsugi or Misawa when the carrier was in NS Yokosuka. The assignment was effective 30 June 1973. However, the squadron and carrier did not arrive until 5 Oct 1973.

† When the decision was made to remove VFA-161 from CVW-5 and not send it back to Japan following its transition training in the F/A-18, it is believed the squadron's home port was changed to NAS Lemoore at that time.

Commanding Officers

<i>Date Assumed Command</i>	
01 Sep 1960	CDR W. C. Hartung
28 Dec 1961	CDR Albert R. Groves
28 Dec 1962	CDR Joseph F. Bolger
12 Jul 1963	CDR Walter T. Broughton II
10 Jul 1964	CDR Wayne J. Welty
28 Sep 1965	CDR L. N. Hoover
16 Dec 1966	CDR Richard J. Schulte
04 Feb 1968	CDR Roger E. Sheets
09 May 1969	CDR Sherman W. Turner
17 Apr 1970	CDR Thomas J. Cassidy, Jr.
26 Mar 1971	CDR John A. Dickson

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Earl W. Connell	10 Mar 1972
CDR C. C. Hoffner	23 Mar 1973
CDR T. R. Swartz	08 Mar 1974
CDR J. W. Lovell	25 Jun 1975
CDR Thomas C. Koehler	23 Sep 1976
CDR John M. Nash	30 Dec 1977
CDR Andrew L. Burgess	27 Mar 1979
CDR Joseph L. K. Corcoran	05 Jun 1980
CDR Newell Tarrant	22 Oct 1981
CDR R. C. Williamson	22 Dec 1982
CDR John P. Patton	22 Jun 1984

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR John F. Williams	03 Apr 1986
CDR A. R. Gorthy, Jr.	1987

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F3H-2/F-3B*	12 Oct 1960
F-4B	05 Aug 1964
F-4N	1973
F-4J	1977
F-4S	06 Feb 1981
F/A-18A	09 Jul 1986

* The F3H-2 designation was changed to F-3B in 1962.



A formation of squadron F-4B Phantom IIs, 1971.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
07 Jun 1962	17 Dec 1962	CVG-16	CVA 34	F3H-2	WestPac
01 Aug 1963	10 Mar 1964	CVW-16	CVA 34	F-3B	WestPac
12 May 1966	03 Dec 1966	CVW-15	CVA 64	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
26 Jul 1967	06 Apr 1968	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
07 Sep 1968	18 Apr 1969	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
23 Sep 1969	01 Jul 1970	CVW-15	CVA 43	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
16 Apr 1971	06 Nov 1971	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
10 Apr 1972	03 Mar 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4B	WestPac/Vietnam
11 Sep 1973	05 Oct 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac*
16 Nov 1973	22 Dec 1973	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
29 Jan 1974	06 Mar 1974	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
18 Oct 1974	20 Dec 1974	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
13 Jan 1975	18 Feb 1975	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
31 Mar 1975	29 May 1975	CVW-5	CVA 41	F-4N	WestPac
04 Oct 1975	19 Dec 1975	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac/IO
13 Mar 1976	26 Apr 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
19 May 1976	22 Jun 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
09 Jul 1976	04 Aug 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
01 Nov 1976	17 Dec 1976	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
11 Jan 1977	01 Mar 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
19 Apr 1977	05 May 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N	WestPac
08 Aug 1977	02 Sep 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4N/J	WestPac
27 Sep 1977	21 Dec 1977	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
11 Apr 1978	23 May 1978	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
09 Nov 1978	23 Dec 1978	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
11 Jan 1979	20 Feb 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
07 Apr 1979	18 Jun 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
20 Aug 1979	14 Sep 1979	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac
30 Sep 1979	20 Feb 1980	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
14 Jul 1980	26 Nov 1980	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4J	WestPac/IO
23 Feb 1981	05 Jun 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac/IO
26 Jun 1981	16 Jul 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
03 Sep 1981	06 Oct 1981	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
26 Apr 1982	18 Jun 1982	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
14 Sep 1982	11 Dec 1982	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	NorPac/WestPac/IO
02 Jun 1983	13 Aug 1983	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
25 Oct 1983	11 Dec 1983	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
28 Dec 1983	23 May 1984	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac/IO
15 Oct 1984	12 Dec 1984	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
01 Feb 1985	28 Mar 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
10 Jun 1985	14 Oct 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac/IO
15 Nov 1985	12 Dec 1985	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac
17 Jan 1986	30 Mar 1986	CVW-5	CV 41	F-4S	WestPac

* VF-161, CVW-5 and *Midway* arrived at their new home port, NS Yokosuka, Japan. With the squadron permanently forward deployed, all future deployments for the squadron will cover only those operations outside the home waters of Japan.



A squadron F-4S Phantom II, in a low-visibility paint scheme, comes in for a landing on Midway (CV 41), 1985.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-16/CVW-16*	AH	01 Sep 1960
RCVW-12†		Oct 1964
CVW-15	NL	15 Dec 1965
CVW-16	AH	01 Sep 1970
CVW-5	NF	16 Feb 1971
COMLATWINGPAC		Oct 1986
CVW-10	NM	15 Jun 1987

* CVG-16 was redesignated CVW-16 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

† The squadron was assigned to RCVW-12 during transitional training in the F-4 Phantom II.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
PUC	30 Apr 1972	09 Feb 1973
NAVE	01 Jul 1977	31 Dec 1978
	01 Jan 1979	30 Jun 1980
AFEM	05 Sep 1963	13 Sep 1963
	03 Nov 1963	08 Nov 1963

Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	10 Dec 1969	11 Dec 1969
	17 Oct 1971	19 Oct 1971
	20 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
HSM	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
NUC	29 May 1966	24 Nov 1966
	13 Aug 1967	19 Feb 1968
	10 Oct 1968	31 Mar 1969
	29 Apr 1975	30 Apr 1975
	01 Jan 1978	30 Jun 1979
MUC	27 Oct 1969	01 Jun 1970
	07 May 1971	28 Oct 1971
	13 Nov 1979	08 Feb 1980
	27 Jul 1982	01 May 1984
NEM	15 Apr 1979	06 Jun 1979
	21 Nov 1979	07 Feb 1980
	19 Aug 1980	13 Nov 1980
	12 Mar 1981	19 May 1981
RVNGC	21 Jun 1966	22 Jun 1966
	23 Nov 1967	
	02 Dec 1967	

Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
	04 Dec 1967
	20 Dec 1967
	20 Jan 1968
	23 Jan 1968
	29 Jan 1968
	15 Oct 1968
	17 Oct 1968
	21 Oct 1968
	25 Oct 1968
	14 Nov 1968
	23 Nov 1968
	25 Nov 1968
	28 Nov 1968
	01 Dec 1968
	04 Dec 1968
	30 Dec 1968
	01 Jan 1969
	14 Jan 1969
	22 Jan 1969
	24 Jan 1969
	26 Jan 1969
	09 Feb 1969
	22 Feb 1969
	19 Mar 1969
	30 Mar 1972
	14 Jun 1966
	27 Jul 1966
	08 Sep 1966
	22 Dec 1967
	27 Jan 1968
	19 Feb 1968
	18 Oct 1968
	27 Oct 1968
	16 Nov 1968
	02 Dec 1968
	05 Dec 1968
	03 Jan 1969
	19 Jan 1969
	20 Feb 1969
	03 Mar 1969
	31 Mar 1969
	15 Jul 1972
	13 Jul 1966
	31 Aug 1966
	01 Oct 1966

VNSM

Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
	19 Oct 1966
	26 Aug 1967
	12 Oct 1967
	04 Nov 1967
	11 Nov 1967
	16 Dec 1967
	15 Jan 1968
	29 Dec 1968
	08 Feb 1969
	19 Mar 1969
	26 Oct 1969
	22 Dec 1969
	17 Feb 1970
	19 Mar 1970
	28 Apr 1970
	17 May 1971
	29 Jun 1971
	31 Jul 1971
	26 Sep 1971
	01 May 1972
	11 Jun 1972
	16 Jul 1972
	23 Aug 1972
	19 Sep 1972
	23 Oct 1972
	03 Dec 1972
	31 Dec 1972
	04 Jan 1973
	03 Feb 1973
	09 Nov 1966
	01 Oct 1967
	28 Oct 1967
	05 Nov 1967
	08 Dec 1967
	07 Jan 1968
	21 Feb 1968
	30 Jan 1969
	03 Mar 1969
	30 Mar 1969
	18 Nov 1969
	19 Jan 1970
	09 Mar 1970
	11 Apr 1970
	01 Jun 1970
	09 Jun 1971
	20 Jul 1971
	17 Aug 1971
	11 Oct 1971
	01 Jun 1972
	07 Jul 1972
	13 Aug 1972
	10 Sep 1972
	12 Oct 1972
	23 Nov 1972
	22 Dec 1972
	24 Jan 1973
	09 Feb 1973



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet prepares to launch from Enterprise (CVN 65), July 1987.

VFA-192

Lineage

Established as Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THREE (VF-153) on 26 March 1945.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron FIFTEEN A (VF-15A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE (VF-151) on 15 July 1948.

Redesignated Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY TWO (VF-192) on 15 February 1950.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY TWO (VA-192) on 15 March 1956.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY TWO (VFA-192) on 10 January 1986. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-192 and VFA-192 designations.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 11 October 1945. Colors for the kangaroo insignia



The fighting kangaroo design was the squadron's first insignia.

were: a white cloud with pale blue shading; reddish brown kangaroo with a white chest and belly, ears were lined in reddish tan with blue markings, white jowls with blue shading, black nose, blue eye with a black pupil, white teeth outlined in black, and a red mouth; crimson boxing gloves; red, orange and white rocket tips; blue rocket body

with pale tan markings, and royal blue tail fins; yellow bombs with a forest green tail; tan machine gun bullets with red tips and held together by a black belt; blue perspiration marks and black lettering.



The helmet and shield design with the Fighting Fifteen A designation in the scroll was the squadron's second insignia.



When the squadron was redesignated VF-151, this modified helmet and shield design was adopted by the squadron.



In 1950, the squadron adopted the dragon and carrier insignia following its redesignation from VF-151 to VF-192.

When the squadron was redesignated VF-151, the helmet and shield insignia was modified and the Latin inscription *In Omnia Paratus* was added to the scroll inside the design. The Latin phrase means ever ready or a state of readiness. The squadron's designation Fighting One Fifty One was added in a lower scroll. Colors for the design remained the same as the previous design.

A new squadron insignia was approved by CNO on 8 August 1950. Colors for the dragon and carrier



In 1956, following another redesignation, the squadron adopted a newly designed dragon insignia.

Following the squadron's redesignation to VF-15A, a new insignia was approved by CNO on 24 November 1947. Colors for the helmet and shield insignia were: a white background outlined in black; gold shield outlined in black with a black diagonal stripe; black helmet with gold markings; black and gold scroll with white lettering.

When the squadron was redesignated VA-192, a new insignia was approved by CNO on 21 June 1956. Colors for the new dragon design are: a blue background outlined in black; yellow

low dragon with black markings, red tongue and white teeth, white eye with a black and red pupil; black and white nuclear symbol and a white cloud with black markings with a red rising center; blue scroll outlined in black with black lettering. This design was continued following the designation change to VFA.

Nicknames: Golden Dragons, 1956-present.



A scroll with the designation VA-192 was added to the dragon insignia. This design remained the same following the squadron's redesignation to VFA; and the only change was in the scroll.

Chronology of Significant Events

27 Jan–24 Feb 1949: Half of the squadron's personnel and aircraft deployed aboard *Boxer* (CV 21) for a Pacific Fleet Minor Cold Weather Exercise near Kodiak, Alaska.



A squadron F4U-4 prepares to launch from *Princeton* (CV 37), circa 1950 or 1951 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

5 Dec 1950: The squadron flew its first combat missions, providing close air support for U.S. Marines near Chosen Reservoir in North Korea.

1 May 1951: The squadron participated in a special strike against the Hwachon Reservoir Dam with VF-193 and VA-195. The purpose of the mission was to destroy the flood gates and raise the level of the river to form a natural barrier against the enemy's advance. While VA-195 was dropping torpedoes to destroy the flood gates of the dam, the squadron's F4U-4s were concentrating on flak and small arms suppression.

23–24 Jun 1952: The squadron, along with units from two other carrier air groups and the Fifth Air Force, conducted coordinated air strikes against North Korean hydroelectric plants. Squadron aircraft struck the Suiho hydroelectric plant on the Yalu River on 23 June. On 24 June their aircraft struck the Kyosen Number Three hydroelectric plant and the Fusen Number Two hydroelectric plant.

Jul 1952: Squadron aircraft participated in one of the major joint Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps air strikes of the war, hitting industrial targets in North Korea's capital city of Pyongyang during the month of July.

20 and 26 Apr 1967: On 20 April Lieutenant Commander Michael J. Estocin, a member of VA-192, lead a three-plane group on an antisurface-to-air missile mission over North Vietnam in advance of a coordinated strike by aircraft from *Ticonderoga* (CVA 14) and *Kitty Hawk* (CVA 63) against two important thermal power plants in Haiphong. After personally neutralizing three surface-to-air missile sites, his aircraft was damaged by an exploding missile. Without regard

for his personal safety he reentered the target area with his damaged aircraft, in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, to attack another missile site to ensure the target area's missile sites were neutralized prior to strikes from the carriers' incoming aircraft. Commander Estocin departed the target area with only five minutes of fuel left. He was refueled enroute to the *Ticonderoga* and landed his damaged plane on the carrier. Upon landing, his plane burst into flames. He was able to secure the engine and escape the aircraft without assistance. On 26 April Commander Estocin led a two-plane group on a similar mission in preparation for a coordinate strike against an oil facility in Haiphong. During this mission his aircraft was again damaged by an exploding surface-to-air missile. He continued his attack against the missile site, launching his missiles from a burning aircraft. Following the attack he attempted to guide his burning aircraft to the safety of the sea. The aircraft was last seen going out of control as it entered a cloud layer over North Vietnam. Commander Estocin was listed as MIA on 26 April 1967 and on 10 November 1977 his MIA status was changed to presumed KIA. For his actions Commander Estocin was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Mar 1968: VA-192, along with other squadrons in CVW-19, conducted flight operations from *Ticonderoga* in the Sea of Japan. These operations, part of Operation Formation Star, were conducted as part of a continuing show of American forces in the area following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by North Korea on 23 January 1968.

Apr 1972: Following the invasion by North Vietnam into South Vietnam the squadron participated in tactical air sorties against military and logistic targets in North Vietnam.

May 1972: Squadron aircraft participated in the mining of North Vietnamese harbors and Linebacker I operations, concentrated air strikes against targets in North Vietnam above the 20th parallel.

23 Nov 1973: VA-192 deployed with CVW-11 embarked on *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) as part of the first CV concept air wing deployment on the west coast. This concept employed all aspects of carrier aviation warfare into one air wing deployed on a single deck.

Jul–Aug 1983: *Ranger* (CV 61), with VA-912 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Nicaragua in response to an unstable situation in Central America and the possible invasion of Honduras by Nicaragua.

Oct 1983–Jan 1984: *Ranger*, with VA-192 embarked, was extended on station in the Arabian Sea due to the Iranian threat to block oil exports from the Persian Gulf.

4–8 Jun 1985: The squadron flew its A-7E Corsair IIs via Hawaii and Wake Island for deployment to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan.

Jun-Dec 1985: While deployed to MCAS Iwakuni as part of MAG-12 the squadron also conducted operations from NAF Kadena and NAS Cubi Point.

Nov 1986: The squadron flew its F/A-18 Hornets from NAS Lemoore, via Hawaii and Guam, to NAF Atsugi, Japan, for operations with CVW-5 and *Midway* (CV 41).

Nov 1987-Feb 1988: The squadron participated in Earnest Will Operations, the escorting of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers through the Persian Gulf.

Sep 1988: During the Summer Olympics in Seoul,

Korea, the squadron was embarked on *Midway* and operating in the Sea of Japan to demonstrate U.S. support for a peaceful Olympics.

Dec 1989: *Midway*, with VFA-192 embarked, maintained station off the coast of the Philippines during an attempted coup in that country.

Nov 1990-Jan 1991: The squadron flew missions in support of Operation Desert Shield, the build up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait.



A squadron F6F-5P Hellcat in flight, 1946 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).



A squadron F8F-1 Bearcat on the deck of Tarawa (CV 40), 1948 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAS Atlantic City	26 Mar 1945
NAAS Oceana	01 Jun 1945
NAS Alameda	Aug 1946
NAS Moffett Field	16 Jul 1951
NAS Lemoore	01 Jan 1962
NS Yokosuka, Japan (NAF Atsugi & Misawa)	01 Jul 1986*

* VFA-192 was assigned to CVW-5 on 1 July 1986 as part of a program that has a permanently assigned carrier and air wing at an overseas home port. The home port for CVW-5 and *Midway* (CV 41) was NS Yokosuka, Japan. The squadron did not arrive in Japan until November 1986.



A squadron F9F-5 on the elevator of Oriskany (CVA 34) during a WestPac cruise in 1953–1954.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Kenneth P. Hance	26 Mar 1945
LCDR Wilson G. Wright	26 Apr 1946
LCDR Richard E. Brown	22 Oct 1947

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LCDR Frank C. Perry	08 Mar 1949
LCDR K. S. Van Meter	26 Jun 1950
CDR Elwin A. Parker	27 Jul 1951
LCDR John H. Dinneen	28 Nov 1952
LCDR Giro N. V. Whited	Apr 1954
CDR Frank E. Foltz	Oct 1955
LCDR William R. Flanagan	30 Sep 1957
LCDR Larry F. Baumgaertel	19 Sep 1958
CDR William E. Payne, Jr.	01 Jul 1959
CDR Harold F. Snowden	May 1960
CDR Benjamin W. Adams	Mar 1961
LCDR Mitchell M. Simmons	15 Feb 1962
CDR Keith T. Weaver	21 Feb 1963
CDR William H. Rogers	10 Dec 1963
CDR Eugene E. Tissot	Dec 1964
CDR Allen E. Hill	Dec 1965
CDR Ed D. McKellar	15 Dec 1966
CDR Lowell F. Eggert	Dec 1967
CDR Joseph K. Stanley	13 Dec 1968
CDR Robert E. Woodbury	19 Oct 1969
CDR David C. Parkhurst	05 Aug 1970
CDR Richard L. Kiehl	30 Apr 1971
CDR Robert C. Taylor, Jr.	08 May 1972
CDR Darrel D. Owens	May 1973
CDR David N. Rogers	16 Jul 1974
CDR Gordon R. Goldenstein	06 Oct 1975
CDR Joseph D. Cole	21 Jan 1977
CDR John L. McWhinney	24 Apr 1978
CDR Thomas B. Latendresse	27 Jun 1980
CDR John J. Zerr	12 Sep 1981
CDR Harry T. Rittenour	28 Jun 1982
CDR Gilman E. Rud	15 Jun 1983
CDR C. D. Englehardt	17 Aug 1984
CDR Robert G. Ferver	10 Jan 1986
CDR John F. Williams	09 Apr 1987
CDR John A. Pettitt	13 May 1988
CDR Michael D. Shutt	06 Sep 1989
CDR James B. Godwin III	01 Mar 1991



Two squadron F9F-8 Cougars fly in formation with an aircraft from VFP-61 during their deployment aboard Yorktown (CVA 10) in 1957.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
F6F-3	Mar 1945
F6F-5	Apr 1945
F8F-1	Nov 1947
F8F-2	Jul 1949
F4U-4	Jul 1950
F9F-2*	14 Jul 1951
F9F-2	03 Dec 1952
F9F-5	Jan 1953
F9F-6	Jan 1956
F9F-8B	Jun 1956
F9F-8	Jul 1956
FJ-4B	10 Dec 1957
A4D-2	Jul 1959
A4D-2N/A-4C†	01 Jun 1960
A-4E	Jun 1966
A-4F	Jul 1967
A-7E	26 Feb 1970
F/A-18A	05 May 1986

* On 9 October 1951 the squadron transferred all its F9F-2s to VF-191 and received F4U-4s in exchange.

† The A4D-2N designation was changed to A-4C in 1962.



Squadron FJ-4B Furys fly over Mt. Fuji, Japan, during their deployment to WestPac aboard Bon Homme Richard (CVA 31), 1958–1959.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
31 Mar 1947	08 Oct 1947	CVAG-15	CV 36	F6F-5	WestPac
11 Jan 1950	13 Jun 1950	CVG-19	CV 21	F8F-2	WestPac
09 Nov 1950	09 Jun 1951	CVG-19	CV 37*	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
21 Mar 1952	03 Nov 1952	CVG-19	CV 37	F4U-4	WestPac/Korea
14 Sep 1953	22 Apr 1954	CVG-19	CVA 34	F9F-5	WestPac
02 Mar 1955	21 Sep 1955	CVG-19	CVA 34	F9F-5	WestPac
09 Mar 1957	25 Aug 1957	CVG-19	CVA 10	F9F-8/8B	WestPac
01 Nov 1958	18 Jun 1959	CVG-19	CVA 31	FJ-4B	WestPac
21 Nov 1959	14 May 1960	CVG-19	CVA 31	A4D-2	WestPac
26 Apr 1961	13 Dec 1961	CVG-19	CVA 31	A4D-2N	WestPac
12 Jul 1962	11 Feb 1963	CVG-19	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac
28 Jan 1964	21 Nov 1964	CVW-19	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac/IO/Vietnam
21 Apr 1965	13 Jan 1966	CVW-19	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
15 Oct 1966	29 May 1967	CVW-19	CVA 14	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
28 Dec 1967	17 Aug 1968	CVW-19	CVA 14	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
14 Apr 1969	17 Nov 1969	CVW-19	CVA 34	A-4F	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Nov 1970	17 Jul 1971	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
17 Feb 1972	28 Nov 1972	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
23 Nov 1973	09 Jul 1974	CVW-11	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 May 1975	15 Dec 1975	CVW-11	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac
25 Oct 1977	22 Sep 1978	CVW-11	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac
13 Mar 1979	22 Sep 1979	CVW-11	CV 66	A-7E	Med
14 Apr 1981	12 Nov 1981	CVW-11	CV 66	A-7E	Med/IO
15 Jul 1983	29 Feb 1984	CVW-9	CV 61	A-7E	Central America/ WestPac/IO
04 Jun 1985	14 Dec 1985	MAG-12	†	A-7E	WestPac
09 Jan 1987	20 Mar 1987	CVW-5	CV 41‡	F/A-18A	WestPac‡
23 Apr 1987	13 Jul 1987	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
15 Oct 1987	12 Apr 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
18 Oct 1988	09 Nov 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
21 Jan 1989	24 Feb 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
27 Feb 1989	09 Apr 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
31 May 1989	25 Jul 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
15 Aug 1989	11 Dec 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
20 Feb 1990	06 Apr 1990	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
02 Oct 1990	17 Apr 1991	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf

* The squadron and CVG-19 were relieved aboard *Princeton* (CV 27) by Carrier Air Group 19X in the latter part of May 1951. Squadron officers were flown back to the States and the enlisted personnel were embarked on a transport ship for their return to NAS Alameda.

† The squadron deployed to MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, as part of the Marine Corps Unit Deployment Program and was assigned to MAG-12.

‡ The squadron was permanently forward deployed and home ported in Japan. Consequently, all future deployments for the squadron while embarked on *Midway* (CV 41) will cover only those operations outside the home waters of Japan.



A formation of squadron A-4F Skyhawks fly over San Francisco, California, 1968.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-153/CVAG-15/ CVG-15*	B/A†	26 Mar 1945
CVG-19/CVW-19§	B/NM‡	Nov 1949
COMFAIRLEMOORE§§		01 Dec 1969
CVW-11§§	NH	01 Dec 1969
CVW-15	NL	18 Jan 1982
COMLATWINGPAC		31 Aug 1982
CVW-9	NG	12 Nov 1982
COMLATWINGPAC		15 Sep 1984
MAG-12	NM**	04 Jun 1985
COMLATWINGPAC		14 Dec 1985
CVW-5	NF	01 Jul 1986

* CVG-153 was redesignated Attack CVAG-15 on 15 November 1946 and then became CVG-15 on 1 September 1948.

† The tail code B was assigned to CVAG-15 on 12 December 1946 and changed to A on 4 August 1948.

‡ The tail code B was changed to NM in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).

§ CVG-19 was redesignated CVW-19 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

§§ The squadron was operationally assigned to CVW-11 and under the administrative command of Commander Fleet Air Lemoore. During the latter part of 1969 and early 1970 the squadron underwent transitional training with VA-122 in the A-7 Corsair II.

** While deployed to MCAS Iwakuni and assigned to MAG-12 the squadron used the NM tail code.



A squadron A-7E Corsair II in flight with a low-visibility paint scheme, 1982.

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
KLM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
NUC	05 Dec 1950	May 1951
	15 Apr 1952	18 Oct 1952
	28 Oct 1966	21 May 1967
	26 Jan 1968	23 Jul 1968
	07 Dec 1970	24 Jun 1971
	09 Mar 1972	04 Nov 1972
	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
KPUC	05 Dec 1950	May 1951
KSM	01 Dec 1950	31 May 1951
	14 Apr 1952	24 Apr 1952
	30 Apr 1952	21 Oct 1952
AFEM	03 Apr 1960	04 Apr 1960
	26 Apr 1960	27 Apr 1960
	22 May 1961	27 May 1961
	05 Mar 1964	13 Mar 1964
	12 May 1964	14 May 1964
	05 Jun 1964	10 Jun 1964
	13 Jun 1964	17 Jun 1964
	31 Aug 1964	06 Nov 1964
	14 Nov 1964	21 Nov 1964
	26 May 1965	03 Jun 1965
	23 Jan 1968	22 Mar 1968
	17 Sep 1969	
	28 Sep 1969	04 Oct 1969
MUC	05 May 1969	03 Nov 1969
	07 Sep 1989	25 Oct 1989
NEM	09 May 1981	18 Oct 1981
RVNGC	19 Oct 1965	20 Oct 1965
	23 Oct 1965	28 Oct 1965
	22 Nov 1965	
	24 Nov 1965	
	06 Dec 1965	
	15 Nov 1966	16 Nov 1966
	20 Nov 1966	21 Nov 1966
	06 Dec 1966	
	15 Dec 1966	
	06 Jan 1967	
	09 Jan 1967	
	30 Jan 1967	
	21 Feb 1967	
	25 Feb 1967	
	03 Mar 1967	04 Mar 1967
	06 Mar 1967	07 Mar 1967
	09 Mar 1967	
	30 Mar 1967	
	11 Apr 1967	
	15 Apr 1967	
	24 Apr 1967	
	26 Apr 1967	
	27 Jan 1968	
	31 Jan 1968	03 Feb 1968
	05 Feb 1968	03 Mar 1968
	27 Mar 1968	06 Apr 1968

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1965	31 Dec 1966
	01 Jul 1968	31 Dec 1969
	01 Jan 1989	31 Dec 1989
	01 Jan 1990	31 Dec 1990
SASM	02 Nov 1990	14 Mar 1991

Unit Awards Received—Continued

Unit Award	Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award	
VNSM	08 Apr 1968	01 May 1968
	26 Apr 1968	
	28 Apr 1968	
	08 May 1968	
	11 May 1968	
	31 May 1968	
	02 Jun 1968	
	17 May 1969	03 Jun 1969
	15 Jun 1969	30 Jun 1969
	18 Jul 1965	13 Aug 1965
	10 Sep 1965	01 Oct 1965
	08 Oct 1965	29 Oct 1965
	13 Nov 1965	17 Dec 1965
	12 Nov 1966	18 Dec 1966
	03 Jan 1967	07 Feb 1967
	13 Feb 1967	16 Mar 1967
	28 Mar 1967	28 Apr 1967
	25 Jan 1968	04 Mar 1968
	25 Mar 1968	08 Apr 1968
	16 Apr 1968	12 May 1968
	24 Apr 1968	
	20 May 1968	
	25 Jun 1968	
	05 May 1969	
	15 Jun 1969	
	12 Jul 1969	
	14 Aug 1969	
	08 Oct 1969	
	07 Dec 1970	
	12 Jan 1971	04 Feb 1971
	19 Feb 1971	01 Apr 1971

Unit Awards Received—Continued

Unit Award	Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award	
	09 Apr 1971	26 Apr 1971
	03 May 1971	17 May 1971
	29 May 1971	23 Jun 1971
	08 Mar 1972	25 Mar 1972
	03 Apr 1972	22 Apr 1972
	01 Jun 1972	27 Jun 1972
	07 Jul 1972	04 Aug 1972
	14 Aug 1972	05 Sep 1972
	15 Sep 1972	02 Oct 1972
	12 Oct 1972	31 Oct 1972



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet in flight, loaded with weapons, 1990.



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet over Midway (CV 41) in 1987.

VFA-195

Lineage

Established as Torpedo Squadron NINETEEN (VT-19) on 15 August 1943.

Redesignated Attack Squadron TWENTY A (VA-20A) on 15 November 1946.

Redesignated Attack Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY FIVE (VA-195) on 24 August 1948.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron ONE HUNDRED NINETY FIVE (VFA-195) on 1 April 1985. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-195 and VFA-195 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 4 March 1944. Colors for the lion cub and torpedo



The lion cub was the squadron's first insignia.

insignia were: a white background with light blue wave lines and streaks; orange torpedo nose, wings and tail section outlined in black; blue torpedo body; light tan lion cub with dark brown spots and outlined in black, red tongue and eyes, black mouth, nose and

whiskers; yellow scarf and line to the torpedo; dark brown bazooka.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 18 April 1949. Two versions of the tiger and parrot insignia exist and the records do not identify which one was the officially approved insignia. There are no color markings available for either insignia.

The squadron adopted the shield insignia at a later date. There are no records available to identify when



The squadron's second insignia was the tiger and parrot design. This is one of the designs on file; unfortunately, the insignia records do not identify which design was approved by CNO.



This is the other tiger and parrot design on file in the squadron's insignia records.



The squadron adopted the helmet and shield insignia sometime in the 1950s.



In 1985, the squadron adopted the stylized eagle insignia design.

this insignia was approved. It is believed the use of the shield insignia began sometime in the 1950s. There are no color markings available on this insignia.

A new insignia was approved by CNO on 30 August 1985. Colors for the eagle insignia are: a green background outlined in a checker board pattern of green, black and gray squares; gray stylized eagle outlined in white, with a white head, a red eye, and a yellow beak and claws; black bomb and missiles outlined in white; silver scrolls outlined in black with black lettering.

Nicknames: Tigers, 1949-early 1950s.

Dambusters, early 1950s-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

18 Jul 1944: The squadron flew its first combat mission when it conducted preinvasion strikes against Guam.

Jul-Oct 1944: The squadron flew combat strikes against Guam, Palau, the Bonin and Volcano Islands, Mindanao, Visayans, Luzon, Okinawa and Formosa.

24 Oct 1944: Squadron aircraft participated in strikes against the Central Japanese Task Force in the Sibuyan Sea, which included the super battleship *Musashi*. Three of the squadron's personnel, Lieutenants Joseph C. Black and Max E. Gregg and Lieutenant (jg) Edward H. Schulke, were awarded the Silver Star for their actions during this strike.

25 Oct 1944: Squadron aircraft participated in the Battle Off Cape Engano, strikes against the Japanese Northern Force composed primarily of carriers. The following squadron personnel were awarded the Navy Cross for their actions during this battle: Lieutenant Commander Frank C. Perry; Lieutenants Leonard R. Prater, Joseph C. Black, Max E. Gregg, Frederick Doll, Jr., James C. West, Leonard P. Mathias, Donald W. McMillan, Richard D. Greer, Jr., and Gordon B. Whelpley; Lieutenant (jg)s Frank A. Fox, Morris R. Goebel, James H. Langrall, Ray J. Stacy, Robert F. Durian, William R. Garrett, John S. McDonald, Edward H. Schulke, Edward



A close-up of squadron AD-4 Skyraiders, loaded with weapons, aboard *Princeton* (CV 37) during their combat deployment to Korea from 1950–1951.



The Hwachon Reservoir Dam under attack by squadron AD-4 Skyraiders, 1 May 1951.

C. Myers, Jr., Irvin Kramer, Jr. and James E. Sipprell; and Ensigns Mercer L. Jackson, Jr., Wallace F. Leeker, Frederick Schuler and Warner W. Tyler.

5 Nov 1944: Squadron aircraft participated in an attack on the *Nachi*, a Japanese heavy cruiser, which was making a sortie out of Manila Bay. The cruiser was sunk and Lieutenant (jg)s Robert F. Durian, James E. Sipprell and Ray J. Stacy were awarded a Gold Star in lieu of their second Navy Cross for their actions in this engagement. Lieutenant Joseph C. Hebert was awarded a Navy Cross for actions in this strike.

5 Dec 1950: The squadron flew its first combat mission since the end of World War II, flying close air support missions for U.S. Marines near Chosen Reservoir in North Korea.

1 May 1951: The squadron's AD-4 Skyraiders made a torpedo strike against the flood gates of the Hwachon Reservoir Dam. The purpose of the mission was to destroy the flood gates and raise the level of the river to form a natural barrier against the enemy's advance. It was from this mission that the squadron derived its nickname, Dambusters.

23 Jun 1952: The squadron, along with units from two other carrier air groups and the Fifth Air Force, conducted coordinated air strikes against the Suiho hydroelectric plant on the Yalu River and the Kyosen Number Three hydroelectric plant. Squadron aircraft participated in attacks against other hydroelectric plants the following day.

11 Jul 1952: Squadron aircraft participated in one of the major joint Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps air strikes of the war, hitting industrial targets in North Korea's capital city of Pyongyang.

Aug–Oct 1964: The squadron participated in special operations, flying escort and reconnaissance sorties in support of U.S. operations in Vietnam and Laos.

20 Apr 1967: Commander S. R. Chessman, the squadron's executive officer, was awarded the Silver Star for his actions in planning and executing a successful strike against a Haiphong thermal power plant, accomplishing the mission without the loss of a single aircraft.

Mar 1968: VA-195, along with other squadrons in CVW-19, conducted flight operations from *Ticonderoga* (CVA 14) in the Sea of Japan. These operations, part of Operation Formation Star, were conducted as part of a continuing show of American forces in the area following the capture of *Pueblo* (AGER 2) by North Korea on 23 January 1968.

6 Mar 1972: During night operations off *Kitty Hawk* (CVA 63) in Philippine waters, the squadron's commanding officer, Commander D. L. Hall, was lost when his aircraft crashed into the water astern of the carrier.

Apr 1972: Following the invasion by North Vietnam into South Vietnam the squadron participated in tactical air sorties against military and logistic targets in North Vietnam.

9 May 1972: Squadron aircraft participated in the mining of North Vietnamese harbors.

10 May 1972: VA-195 participated in the beginning of Linebacker I operations, concentrated air strikes against targets in North Vietnam above the 20th parallel.

23 Nov 1973: VA-195 deployed with CVW-11 embarked on *Kitty Hawk* (CV 63) as part of the first CV concept air wing deployment on the west coast. This concept consolidated all aspects of carrier aviation warfare into one air wing deployed on a single deck.

Jul–Aug 1983: *Ranger* (CV 61), with VA-195 embarked, was ordered to operate off the coast of Nicaragua in response to an unstable situation in

Central America and the possible invasion of Honduras by Nicaragua.

Oct 1983–Jan 1984: *Ranger*, with VA-195 embarked, was extended on station in the Arabian Sea due to the Iranian threat to block oil exports from the Persian Gulf.

Nov 1986: The squadron flew its F/A-18 Hornets from NAS Lemoore to NAF Atsugi, Japan, for operations with CVW-5 and *Midway* (CV 41), home ported at NS Yokosuka, Japan.

Nov 1987–Feb 1988: The squadron participated in Earnest Will Operations, the escorting of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers through the Persian Gulf.

Sep 1988: During the Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea, the squadron was embarked on *Midway* and operating in the Sea of Japan to demonstrate U.S. support for a peaceful Olympics.

Dec 1989: *Midway*, with VFA-195 embarked, maintained station off the coast of the Philippines during an attempted coup in that country.

Nov 1990–Jan 1991: The squadron flew missions in support of Operation Desert Shield, the build up of American and Allied forces to counter a threatened invasion of Saudi Arabia by Iraq and as part of an economic blockade of Iraq to force its withdrawal from Kuwait.



A squadron TBM-3E in flight, circa mid 1946 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Home Port Assignments

<i>Location</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
NAAS Los Alamitos	15 Aug 1943
NAS Kahului	29 Feb 1944*
NAS San Diego	14 Dec 1944
NAS Alameda	20 Jan 1945
NAAS Santa Rosa	05 Feb 1945
NAS Kahului	09 Aug 1945*
NAS Barbers Point	03 Nov 1945
NAS Alameda	19 Aug 1946
NAS Moffett Field	03 Nov 1952
NAS Lemoore	13 Dec 1961
NS Yokosuka, Japan (NAF Atsugi & Misawa)	01 Jul 1986†

* Temporary shore assignment while the squadron conducted training in preparation for combat deployment.

† VFA-195 was assigned to CVW-5 on 1 July 1986 as part of a program that has a permanently assigned carrier and air wing at an overseas home port. The home port for CVW-5 and *Midway* (CV 41) was NS Yokosuka, Japan. The squadron did not arrive in Japan until November 1986.



Three squadron AD-6 Skyraiders on the deck of Yorktown (CVA 10) preparing to launch, 1957.

Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
LT Leonard R. Prater (acting)	15 Aug 1943
LCDR Karl E. Jung	18 Aug 1943
LCDR Albert P. Coffin	22 Sep 1943

LCDR David E. Dressendorfer	31 Dec 1943
LCDR Frank C. Perry	26 Sep 1944
LCDR James F. McRoberts	24 Nov 1945
LCDR Melvin H. Warner	11 Aug 1947
LCDR Harry C. White	07 Aug 1948
LCDR Harold G. Carlson	26 Jun 1950
CDR Neil A. MacKinnon	28 Sep 1951
CDR August W. Elliott, Jr.	01 Dec 1952
CDR Lewis R. Hardy, Jr.	16 Jul 1954
CDR William A. Rawls	30 Sep 1955
CDR R. J. Mead	06 Sep 1957
CDR Fletcher H. Burnham	18 Jul 1958
CDR Harry N. O'Connor	Jul 1959
CDR George W. Blease	01 Jun 1960
CDR Walter E. Scholz	17 Mar 1961
CDR Anson D. Geiger	27 Apr 1962
CDR Robert F. Doss	29 Mar 1963
CDR J. V. Smith	28 Apr 1964
CDR Bertrand O. Larsen	12 Apr 1965
CDR Charles E. Hathaway	01 Apr 1966
CDR Samuel R. Chessman	28 Apr 1967
CDR W. H. Greiwe	24 Jul 1968
CDR C. W. Jorgensen	Jun 1969
CDR D. D. Hicks, Jr.	06 Mar 1970
CDR Paul F. McCarthy, Jr.	09 Feb 1971
CDR Donald L. Hall	30 Dec 1971
CDR Mace C. Gilfry	07 Mar 1972
CDR Norman D. Campbell	16 Mar 1973
CDR Brian D. Woods	01 Jun 1974
LCDR James R. Lee	02 Jun 1975
CDR William E. Newman	27 Aug 1976
CDR Robert C. Kaup	07 Oct 1977
CDR William C. Bowes	06 Oct 1978
CDR James M. Hays	13 Dec 1979
CDR Alexander M. Phillips	24 Mar 1981
CDR David I. Pierce	09 Jun 1982
CDR Kirwin S. Webster	01 Dec 1983
CDR W. O. King, Jr.	08 May 1985
CDR Patrick D. Moneymaker	10 Oct 1986
CDR Thomas G. Otterbein	15 Apr 1988
CDR Gregory C. Wooldridge	09 Aug 1989
CDR Randolph R. Robb	17 Oct 1990



A formation of squadron A-4C Skyhawks during their combat deployment to Vietnam aboard Bon Homme Richard (CVA-31), 1965.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
TBM-1	1943*
TBM-1C	04 Nov 1943
TBM-3	Feb 1945
TBM-3E	Apr 1945
TBM-3Q	1946
AD-1	03 May 1947
AD-2	25 Aug 1948
AD-3	10 Jan 1949
AD-4	Jul 1950
AD-4L	Jun 1952
AD-4B	Jan 1953
AD-4NA	Feb 1953
AD-6	May 1954
A4D-2	01 Jul 1959
A4D-2N/A-4C†	May 1960
A-4E	Sep 1968
TA-4F	Oct 1968
A-7E	Feb 1970
F/A-18A	30 Sep 1985

* The squadron received its first TBM-1s sometime in either late August or early September 1943.

† The A4D-2N designation was changed to A-4C in 1962.



Three squadron A-7E Corsair IIs on the deck of Kitty Hawk (CVA 63) prepare to launch on a combat mission against Viet Cong positions, 1971.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
23 Jun 1944	23 Nov 1944	CVG-19	CV 16*	TBM-1C	Pacific
18 Mar 1946	19 Aug 1946	CVG-19	CV 36†	TBM-3E	WestPac
11 Jan 1950	13 Jun 1950	CVG-19	CV 21	AD-3	WestPac
09 Nov 1950	09 Jun 1951	CVG-19	CV 37‡	AD-4	WestPac/Korea
21 Mar 1952	03 Nov 1952	CVG-19	CV 37	AD-4/4L	WestPac/Korea
14 Sep 1953	22 Apr 1954	CVG-19	CVA 34	AD-4B/NA	WestPac
02 Mar 1955	21 Sep 1955	CVG-19	CVA 34	AD-6	WestPac
09 Mar 1957	25 Aug 1957	CVG-19	CVA 10	AD-6	WestPac
01 Nov 1958	18 Jun 1959	CVG-19	CVA 31	AD-6	WestPac
21 Nov 1959	14 May 1960	CVG-19	CVA 31	A4D-2	WestPac
26 Apr 1961	13 Dec 1961	CVG-19	CVA 31	A4D-2N	WestPac
12 Jul 1962	11 Feb 1963	CVG-19	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac
28 Jan 1964	21 Nov 1964	CVW-19	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac/IO/Vietnam
21 Apr 1965	13 Jan 1966	CVW-19	CVA 31	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
15 Oct 1966	29 May 1967	CVW-19	CVA 14	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
28 Dec 1967	17 Aug 1968	CVW-19	CVA 14	A-4C	WestPac/Vietnam
14 Apr 1969	17 Nov 1969	CVW-19	CVA 34	A-4E	WestPac/Vietnam
06 Nov 1970	17 Jul 1971	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
17 Feb 1972	28 Nov 1972	CVW-11	CVA 63	A-7E	WestPac/Vietnam
23 Nov 1973	09 Jul 1974	CVW-11	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac/IO
21 May 1975	15 Dec 1975	CVW-11	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac
25 Oct 1977	15 May 1978	CVW-11	CV 63	A-7E	WestPac
13 Mar 1979	22 Sep 1979	CVW-11	CV 66	A-7E	Med
14 Apr 1981	12 Nov 1981	CVW-11	CV 66	A-7E	Med/IO
15 Jul 1983	29 Feb 1984	CVW-9	CV 61	A-7E	Central America/ WestPac/IO
09 Jan 1987	20 Mar 1987	CVW-5	CV 41§	F/A-18A	WestPac§
23 Apr 1987	13 Jul 1987	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
15 Oct 1987	12 Apr 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
18 Oct 1988	09 Nov 1988	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
21 Jan 1989	24 Feb 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
27 Feb 1989	09 Apr 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
31 May 1989	25 Jul 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
15 Aug 1989	11 Dec 1989	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO
20 Feb 1990	06 Apr 1990	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac
02 Oct 1990	17 Apr 1991	CVW-5	CV 41	F/A-18A	WestPac/IO/ Persian Gulf

* The squadron departed Hawaii enroute to Eniwetok Atoll embarked on *Intrepid* (CV 11) and arrived there on 30 June 1944. On 9 July the squadron flew aboard *Lexington* (CV 16) in preparation for its combat deployment. The squadron's combat deployment ended on 23 November 1944 when they were transferred to *Enterprise* (CV 6) while at Ulithi Atoll. They arrived at Hawaii on 27 November and were transferred to *Long Island* (CVE 1) for the final leg of the return trip to the States, arriving at NAS San Diego on 14 December 1944.

† The squadron departed Hawaii enroute to Saipan embarked on *Hancock* (CV 19) and arrived there on 3 April 1946. On 20 April the squadron flew aboard *Antietam* (CV 36) for deployment to WestPac. During the squadron's deployment to WestPac it was temporarily shore based at Saipan on several occasions.

‡ The squadron and CVG-19 were relieved aboard *Princeton* (CV 37) by Carrier Air Group 19X. Squadron aircraft were transferred to VA-55. The officers were flown back to the States and the enlisted personnel were transferred to USAT *General Nelson M. Walker* for transportation back to NAS Alameda.

§ The squadron was permanently forward deployed and home ported in Japan. Consequently, all future deployments for the squadron will cover only those operations outside the home waters of Japan.



A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs in low-visibility paint scheme, circa 1982–1983.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVG-19/CVAG-19/ CVG-19/CVW-19*	A/B/NM†	15 Aug 1943
COMFAIRLEMOORE		01 Dec 1969
CVW-11	NH	1970
CVW-15	NL	18 Jan 1982
COMLATWINGPAC		01 Oct 1982
CVW-9	NG	12 Nov 1982
COMLATWINGPAC		15 Sep 1984

Air Wing Assignments—Continued

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVW-5	NF	01 Jul 1986

* CVG-19 was redesignated CVAG-19 on 15 November 1946. On 1 September 1948 CVAG-19 was redesignated CVG-19. CVG-19 was redesignated CVW-19 when Carrier Air Groups (CVG) were redesignated Carrier Air Wings (CVW) on 20 December 1963.

† The tail code A was assigned to CVAG-19 on 12 December 1946 and changed to B on 4 August 1948. The tail code B was changed to NM in 1957. The effective date for this change was most likely the beginning of FY 58 (1 July 1957).



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet in flight, 1986. The aircraft has the tail code NM but the squadron was not assigned to CVW-19 when it received its Hornets.

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jan 1970	30 Jun 1971
PUC	18 Jul 1944	05 Aug 1944
	06 Sep 1944	06 Nov 1944
Campaign Medal		
(Asiatic Pacific)	18 Jul 1944	27 Aug 1944
	31 Aug 1944	14 Oct 1944
	10 Oct 1944	23 Nov 1944
SASM	02 Nov 1990	14 Mar 1991
KLM	17 Jan 1991	28 Feb 1991
NUC	05 Dec 1950	10 Aug 1951
	15 Apr 1952	18 Oct 1952
	28 Oct 1966	21 May 1967
	26 Jan 1968	23 Jul 1968
	07 Dec 1970	24 Jun 1971
	09 Mar 1972	04 Nov 1972
	17 Jan 1991	07 Feb 1991
KPUC	05 Dec 1950	10 Aug 1951
KSM	01 Dec 1950	31 May 1951
	14 Apr 1952	24 Apr 1952
	30 Apr 1952	21 Oct 1952
AFEM	03 Apr 1960	04 Apr 1960
	26 Apr 1960	27 Apr 1960
	22 May 1961	27 May 1961
	05 Mar 1964	13 Mar 1964
	12 May 1964	14 May 1964
	05 Jun 1964	10 Jun 1964
	13 Jun 1964	17 Jun 1964
	31 Aug 1964	06 Nov 1964
	14 Nov 1964	21 Nov 1964
	26 May 1965	03 Jun 1965
	17 Mar 1968	21 Mar 1968
	17 Sep 1969	
	28 Sep 1969	04 Oct 1969
MUC	05 May 1969	03 Nov 1969
	01 Jan 1987	30 Jun 1988
	07 Sep 1989	25 Oct 1989
NEM	09 May 1981	18 Oct 1981
RVNGC	19 Oct 1965	20 Oct 1965
	23 Oct 1965	28 Oct 1965
	22 Nov 1965	
	24 Nov 1965	
	06 Dec 1965	
	15 Nov 1966	16 Nov 1966
	20 Nov 1966	21 Nov 1966
	06 Dec 1966	
	15 Dec 1966	
	06 Jan 1967	

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
	09 Jan 1967	
	30 Jan 1967	
	21 Feb 1967	
	25 Feb 1967	
	03 Mar 1967	04 Mar 1967
	06 Mar 1967	07 Mar 1967
	09 Mar 1967	
	30 Mar 1967	
	11 Apr 1967	
	15 Apr 1967	
	24 Apr 1967	
	26 Apr 1967	
	27 Jan 1968	
	31 Jan 1968	03 Feb 1968
	05 Feb 1968	03 Mar 1968
	27 Mar 1968	06 Apr 1968
	08 Apr 1968	
	26 Apr 1968	
	28 Apr 1968	01 May 1968
	08 May 1968	
	11 May 1968	
	31 May 1968	
	02 Jun 1968	
	17 May 1969	03 Jun 1969
	15 Jun 1969	30 Jun 1969
VNSM	18 Jul 1965	13 Aug 1965
	10 Sep 1965	01 Oct 1965
	08 Oct 1965	29 Oct 1965
	13 Nov 1965	17 Dec 1965
	12 Nov 1966	18 Dec 1966
	03 Jan 1967	07 Feb 1967
	13 Feb 1967	16 Mar 1967
	28 Mar 1967	28 Apr 1967
	25 Jan 1968	04 Mar 1968
	25 Mar 1968	08 Apr 1968
	16 Apr 1968	
	24 Apr 1968	12 May 1968
	20 May 1968	14 Jun 1968
	25 Jun 1968	23 Jul 1968
	05 May 1969	04 Jun 1969
	15 Jun 1969	01 Jul 1969
	12 Jul 1969	30 Jul 1969
	14 Aug 1969	12 Sep 1969
	08 Oct 1969	31 Oct 1969
	07 Dec 1970	30 Dec 1970
	12 Jan 1971	04 Feb 1971
	19 Feb 1971	01 Apr 1971

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
09 Apr 1971	26 Apr 1971
03 May 1971	17 May 1971
29 May 1971	23 Jun 1971
08 Mar 1972	25 Mar 1972
03 Apr 1972	22 Apr 1972

Unit Awards Received—Continued

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>
01 Jun 1972	27 Jun 1972
07 Jul 1972	04 Aug 1972
14 Aug 1972	05 Sep 1972
15 Sep 1972	02 Oct 1972
12 Oct 1972	31 Oct 1972



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet assigned to CVW-5 aboard Midway (CV 41).

VFA-203

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED AND THREE (VA-203) on 1 July 1970.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron TWO HUNDRED AND THREE (VFA-203) on 1 October 1989. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-203 and VFA-203 designation.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname



The squadron's one and only insignia, the Blue Dolphins. When the squadron was redesignated VFA the VA designation in the scroll was changed to VFA.

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 24 October 1974. Colors for the blue dolphin are as follows: a dark blue border with the upper half of the background blue and the lower half red, separated by a dark blue line; dark blue dolphin with white markings; blue scroll with dark blue outlines and lettering.

Nickname: Blue Dolphins, 1971-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

1 Jul 1970: VA-203 was established as a reserve squadron under a new concept in the reorganization of the Naval Air Reserve Force. The reorganization was intended to make the reserves more compatible with active duty units and to increase the combat readiness of the Naval Air Reserve Force.

15–22 May 1972: The squadron deployed to NAS Oceana to participate in exercise Exotic Dancer V, designed to test multiservice operations under a unified command organization.

Feb 1980: The squadron participated in a combined NATO forces exercise conducted at NAS Bermuda called Safe Passage.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Jacksonville	01 Jul 1970
NAS Cecil Field	01 Dec 1977

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR Walter N. Vance III	01 Jul 1970
CDR James S. Bassett	22 Jan 1972
CDR Bobby S. Morgan	29 Sep 1973
LCDR Jimmie W. Seeley	13 Sep 1975



A couple of squadron A-4L Skyhawks in flight, circa early 1970s.

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR F. Francis Hughes, Jr.	20 Aug 1977
CDR A. Anthony Iser	21 Jul 1979
CDR David A. Dollarhide	21 Feb 1981
CDR Jack C. Harris	21 Aug 1982
CDR George W. Weiler	1984

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Timothy G. Palmer	24 Apr 1985
CDR Thomas J. Verrengia	Jun 1986
CDR Ray K. Waddell	12 Dec 1987
CDR Richard A. Bailey	1989
CDR William C. Bailey	26 May 1990



A squadron A-7A Corsair II in flight, circa 1974–1977.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-4L	Jul 1971
A-7A	05 Apr 1974
A-7B	Aug 1977
A-7E	22 Sep 1983
F/A-18	05 Nov 1989

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVWR-20	AF	01 Jul 1970

A squadron F/A-18A Hornet at NAS Fallon, Nevada, May 1990 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).



VFA-204

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron TWO HUNDRED FOUR (VA-204) on 1 July 1970.

Redesignation Strike Fighter Squadron TWO HUNDRED FOUR (VFA-204) on 1 May 1991. It is the first squadron to be assigned the VA-204 and VFA-204 designation.



The squadron's River Rattlers insignia was approved by CNO in 1970.



When the squadron was redesignated, the VA designation in the insignia scroll was changed to VFA.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 31 August 1970. Colors for the insignia are: a yellow background outlined in red; white scroll outlined in red with blue lettering; green bomb outlined in black, with a yellow band on the nose and white markings on the fin; tan snake with green diamond and white markings, the underside of the snake is yellow with black markings; white fangs outlined in black; a red tongue with a dark pink mouth, outlined in red and a yellow eye with a red pupil; the entire snake is outlined in black.

Nickname: River Rattlers, 1970s-present.

Chronology of Significant Events

1 Jul 1970: VA-204 was a reserve squadron established as part of a reorganization intended to increase the combat readiness of the Naval Air Reserve Force.

May 1972: The squadron participated in exercise Exotic Dancer V, designed to test multiservice operations under a unified command organization.

Feb 1980: VA-204 participated in a combined NATO forces exercise conducted near NAS Bermuda called Safe Passage.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Memphis	01 Jul 1970
NAS New Orleans	Jan 1978

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR A. R. Scharff, Jr.	01 Jul 1970
CDR Theodore B. Hannah	01 Jul 1972
CDR Sidney C. Dabbs	12 Jan 1974
CDR Kenneth C. Juergens	12 Jul 1975
CDR James S. Greenwood	15 Feb 1977
CDR Norris J. Flagler	23 Sep 1978
CDR James A. Cook	22 Mar 1980
CDR Edwin R. Phelps III	24 Oct 1981
CDR Joseph A. Chronic	08 Jan 1983
CAPT Kenneth A. McCluskey	14 Apr 1984
CDR Donald R. Roesh	02 Mar 1985
CDR Robert O. Buschmann	13 Sep 1986
CDR Douglas R. Fischer	19 Mar 1988
CDR Keith R. LaFlair	Jul 1989
CDR Ronald J. Roshelli	Jul 1990
CDR D. L. Kloeppel	Jul 1991



A squadron A-4L Skyhawk comes in for a landing aboard Saratoga (CV 60).



A squadron A-7E Corsair II comes in for a landing, 1984.

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-4C	01 Jul 1970
A-4L	Aug 1970
A-7B	15 Mar 1978
A-7E	Jun 1986
F/A-18A	Apr 1991

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVWR-20	AF	01 Jul 1970

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jan 1984	31 Dec 1984



A squadron A-7E Corsair II flies over New Orleans, Louisiana, 1984.



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet, 1992 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

VFA-303

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron THREE HUNDRED THREE (VA-303) on 1 July 1970.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron THREE HUNDRED THREE (VFA-303) on 1 January 1984.

Disestablished on 31 December 1994. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-303 and VFA-303 designation.



The squadron's Golden Hawks insignia.

The squadron's insignia was approved by CNO on 23 February 1972. Colors for the hawk insignia are: a blue background outlined by two gold circles with white diamonds between the gold circles; white and red bridge; gold hawk with black markings and a red lightning bolt emanating from its beak; the Corsair II design is white; blue scrolls outlined in gold with gold lettering.

A modification to the above insignia was approved by CNO on 24 April 1984. The bridge design was replaced by brown mountains with white markings; the Corsair II design was replaced by a white hornet and the Attack Squadron 303 designation was changed to Strike Fighter Squadron 303. All the other colors remained the same as the previous insignia.



Following the redesignation of the squadron, the designation in the insignia scroll was changed to Strike Fighter Squadron 303.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

Nickname: Golden Hawks, 1972–1994.

Chronology of Significant Events

1 Jul 1970: VA-303, a reserve squadron, established as part of a reorganization of the reserves intended to increase the combat readiness of the Naval Air Reserve Force.

Apr 1971: VA-303 was the first reserve squadron to transition to the A-7A Corsair II.

Nov 1975: The squadron deployed aboard *Ranger* (CV 61) for the annual active duty training and as part

of CVWR-30's tactical air mobilization test and the operational readiness exercise/inspection to ensure the squadron was seaworthy and combat ready.

19 Oct 1985: VFA-303 was the first reserve squadron to transition to the F/A-18 Hornet.

25 Sep–20 Nov 1990: A detachment of the squadron's F/A-18 Hornets and personnel, along with VFA-305, joined CVW-11 aboard *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) for her transit from Norfolk to Alameda, via Cape Horn.

Nov 1990: A detachment of squadron aircraft and personnel deployed to NWC China Lake in direct support of Operation Desert Shield. Provided critical real world electronic warfare test and evaluation missions requiring aircraft fully functional with electronic warfare, Harm missile and electronic countermeasure suites.

1993: In early 1993 the squadron added the roles of Adversary and Fleet Support to its primary mission.



A squadron A-4C Skyhawk, April 1971 (Courtesy Robert Lawson Collection).

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Alameda	01 Jul 1970
NAS Lemoore	01 Jan 1984

Commanding Officers

	Date Assumed Command
CDR William E. Nelson	01 Jul 1970
CDR Philip H. Benz	17 Jul 1971
CDR Olin A. Gray	21 Jan 1973
CDR Reid T. Melville	14 Dec 1974
CDR Alfred F. Talley	19 Jun 1976
CDR Thomas E. Gehman	17 Jun 1978
CDR Donald P. Smith	21 Jun 1980
CDR Harold Shorr	1982
CDR Richard A. Banks	23 Jul 1983
CDR Robert R. Greathouse	1984
CDR Jon L. Green	Oct 1985
CDR Scott H. Davis	11 Apr 1987



Two squadron A-7A Corsair IIs in flight, 1977.

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR John S. Wood	22 Oct 1988
CDR Charles B. Askey	19 May 1990
CDR Barry C. Douglas	18 May 1991
CDR Ronald J. Smeltzer	19 Sep 1992
CDR Jeffrey L. Schram	08 Jan 1994

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-4C	01 Jul 1970
A-7A	05 Apr 1971
A-7B	11 Aug 1977
F/A-18A	19 Oct 1985

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVWR-30	ND	01 Jul 1970

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Jul 1971	31 Dec 1972
	01 Jan 1987	31 Dec 1987
	01 Jan 1989	31 Dec 1989
	01 Jan 1991	31 Dec 1991



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet comes in for a carrier landing, circa 1986.

VFA-305

Lineage

Established as Attack Squadron THREE HUNDRED FIVE (VA-305) on 1 July 1970.

Redesignated Strike Fighter Squadron THREE HUNDRED FIVE (VFA-305) on 1 January 1987.

Disestablished on 31 December 1994. The first squadron to be assigned the VA-305 and VFA-305 designation.



The dagger design was the squadron's first insignia.



In 1974, the squadron adopted a the wolf head insignia. The designation in the scroll was changed from Attack Squadron 305 to Strike Fighter Squadron 305 in 1987.

Squadron Insignia and Nickname

The squadron's first insignia was approved by CNO on 29 June 1971. Colors for the dagger insignia were: a gray background outlined in green; green diagonal strips; gold dagger outlined in black; gray scroll outlined in green with black lettering.

A new insignia was adopted and approved by CNO on 3 January 1974. Colors for the wolf insignia are: a white background outlined in brown; green diagonal strips outlined in brown; brown and white wolf's head, white and red eye, white mouth and teeth with a red tongue; white scroll outlined in brown with brown lettering.

Nicknames: The Hackers, 1971–1974.
 Lobos, 1974–1994.

Chronology of Significant Events

1 Jul 1970: VA-305, a reserve squadron, established as part of a reorganization of the reserves intended to increase the combat readiness of the Naval Air Reserve Force.

Nov 1976: The squadron deployed aboard *Ranger* (CV 61) for the annual active duty training and as part of CVWR-30's tactical air mobilization test and the operational readiness exercise/inspection to ensure the squadron was seaworthy and combat ready and as part of a congressional ordered Reserve Air Test.

25 Sep–20 Nov 1990: The squadron's deployment with CVW-11 aboard *Abraham Lincoln* (CVN 72) was the first total integration of a reserve squadron with an active duty air wing for a long deployment in support of a direct fleet operational requirements. Squadron personnel participated in exercises and officer exchanges with the armed forces of Argentina and Chile and also flew drug interdiction missions during the deployment.

1993: In 1993 the squadron added the roles of Adversary and Fleet Support to its primary mission.



A line of squadron A-4C Skyhawks, 1971.

Home Port Assignments

Location	Assignment Date
NAS Los Alamitos	01 Jul 1970
NAS Point Mugu	Jan 1971

A squadron A-7A Corsair II on a training flight, circa early 1970s.



Commanding Officers

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR Steven B. Daggett	01 Jul 1970
CDR Louis F. Carson, Jr.	09 Jan 1972
CDR Earl L. Jackson, Jr.	08 Jul 1973
CDR Donald B. Norris	1975
CDR Ronald V. Boch	1976
CDR Louis E. Jones	21 Jan 1978
CDR Paul G. Giberson	30 Sep 1979
CDR Douglas L. Bailey	25 Apr 1981
CDR Jerry R. DeGiorgio	24 Oct 1982
CDR Robert W. Lind	23 Jul 1984
CDR Dennis J. Sapp	23 Feb 1986
CDR John P. Hazelrig	19 Sep 1987
CDR Jan D. Janiec	23 Oct 1988

Commanding Officers—Continued

	<i>Date Assumed Command</i>
CDR John K. McGuire, Jr.	21 Jul 1990
CDR P. B. Sanwick	20 Jul 1991
CDR Steven R. Sewell	14 Nov 1992
CDR Barry E. Rainey	12 Feb 1994

Aircraft Assignment

<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Date Type First Received</i>
A-4C	01 Jul 1970
A-4E	Dec 1971
A-7A	26 Jun 1972
A-7B	1978
F/A-18A	Jan 1987



A formation of squadron A-7E Corsair IIs, 1984.

Major Overseas Deployments

<i>Date of Departure</i>	<i>Date of Return</i>	<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Carrier</i>	<i>Type of Aircraft</i>	<i>Area of Operation</i>
25 Sep 1990	20 Nov 1990	CVW-11	CVN-72	F/A-18A	East to West Coast Transit via Cape Horn



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet touches down on Abraham Lincoln's (CVN 72) deck, October 1990.

Air Wing Assignments

<i>Air Wing</i>	<i>Tail Code</i>	<i>Assignment Date</i>
CVWR-30	ND	01 Jul 1970
CVW-11		Sep 1990
CVWR-30	ND	Dec 1990

Unit Awards Received

<i>Unit Award</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates Covering Unit Award</i>	
NAVE	01 Oct 1976	30 Sep 1978
	01 Jan 1983	31 Dec 1983
	01 Jan 1990	31 Dec 1990
MUC	Nov 1976	Jan 1980



A squadron F/A-18A Hornet at Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division Point Mugu, California, 1993.